











THE EDITION OF THE

# HISTORY OF RIBCHESTER

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(Signed)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. L. Smith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

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THE HISTORY OF THE  
PARISH OF RIBCHESTER,

In the County of Lancaster,

BY

TOM C. SMITH, F.R. HIST. SOC.,

AUTHOR OF THE *History of Longridge ; From Great Britain to  
Greater Britain, ETC. ;*

AND

THE REV. JONATHAN SHORTT, B.A.,

VICAR OF HOGHTON.

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*"It is written upon a wall in Rome,  
Ribchester was as rich as any town in Christendom."*—Anon.

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## PREFACE.

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THE *Athenæum* early last year correctly interpreted the general feeling of antiquaries and others by saying "it is not a little remarkable that a place so abounding in antiquities (as Ribchester) has never hitherto been treated of in a monograph." This feeling of surprise is deepened when we learn what a mine of material lay ready to the hand of the first earnest searcher. Accordingly the present writer, having secured the aid of the Rev. Jon. Shortt, the eminent authority on Roman Antiquities in Lancashire, has ventured to collect this mass of material, and scattered pieces of general information relating to the parish into one book. A vigorous search at the Record Office yielded magnificent results; the hitherto unpublished Towneley, Raines, and Piccope MSS. throw quite a new light upon the early history of the parish; numerous correspondents have contributed interesting notes on private families; an intimate personal acquaintance (born of a life's study) with local field and house names, has, it is hoped, explained some obscure points; and an humble attempt to reach the high standard set up by such historians as the Rev. J. Charles Cox, LL.D., author of *The Collegiate Church of All Saints, Derby*, the Rev. Charles Kerry, author of *St. Lawrence's, Reading*, and Mr. W. A. Abram, F.R.H.S., author of the *History of Blackburn*, may possibly be traced in the present work.

It is not necessary here to draw particular attention to the many difficulties which have been removed, the many puzzles solved, and the *very many mistakes* which have been rectified by means of original documents. The reader will note them for himself. But of the spirit with which the work has been undertaken and carried out, something may without egotism be said. Every known and likely source of information has been ransacked, hundreds of wills and deeds have been examined, many eminent living authorities have been consulted, public and private MSS.

have been laid under contribution—in short, neither time, expense, trouble, nor thought has been spared to make this *History of Ribchester* worthy of its name, and a permanent and reliable record of its ancient glory, past customs, and natural beauty.

The books I have consulted are, I think, all mentioned in the text. It is, therefore, unnecessary to recapitulate them here. Still I should like to express my indebtedness to Dr. Cox's well-known work, *How to write the History of a Parish*, and to acknowledge the help received from the publications of the Chetham and Record Societies, and other valuable works contained in Dr. Shepherd's Library, Preston.

My last and pleasing duty is to thank all those who in any way have assisted me. The Rev. Charles Boardman, D.D., Longridge, has aided me with many scholarly criticisms. Mr. W. Waddington, Burnley, and Mr. C. W. Sutton, of the Manchester Free Library, have assisted me in various ways. Mr. J. E. Tinkler, late of the Chetham's Library, has carefully collated for me the Piccopes and other MSS. Mr. Joseph Gillow, of Bowdon, the eminent Catholic biographer, has rendered me invaluable aid by placing at my disposal his unique collection of manuscripts and notes. To Captain John Parker, of Horbury, Wakefield, I am indebted for many interesting notes on the early Church history of the parish. My grateful thanks are tendered to the Rev. Reginald Colley, S.J., Rector of Stonyhurst College, and the Librarian of the College, for the hospitable facilities afforded me when searching the valuable library. My thanks are due to the Rev. G. B. Ackerley, Vicar of Mytton; and the Rev. J. H. Rawdon, Vicar of Preston, for their courtesy in allowing me to make extracts from the parish registers of their respective churches. Mr. James Fenton, F.S.A., Dutton Manor, has courteously afforded me access to the records of the Courts Baron of his manors of Dutton and Ribchester. Sir Charles de Hoghton, Bart, Hoghton Tower, has kindly permitted me to make transcripts from the family charters. Mr. George Pye, Chipping, has generously allowed me to use the whole of his unusually interesting family papers. To Miss Mary Veevers, Crumpsall, I am indebted for the loan of many old local deeds and papers.

And, finally, I have to express as best I can the sense of gratitude I feel to Thos. Dean, Esq., M.D., Burnley, the Rev. Jon. Shortt, the Rev. F. J. Dickson, the Very Rev. Monsignor R. Gradwell, and Mr. W. A. Abram. For months Mr. Dickson has allowed me the free range of his rectory for the purpose of transcribing the registers, etc., and has thus added materially to the accuracy of the transcripts, besides assisting me in numerous other ways. To Mgr. Gradwell I owe many derivations of place names, in addition to the ingenious and novel sketch on "Early Christianity in Lancashire," which he has done me the honour to contribute. Mr. W. A. Abram has added most considerably to the fulness of the chapters on the Rectors and Old Families with a genercsity not too common among local historians. Dr. Dean has placed at my disposal his unique collection of Towneley MSS. with a considerateness I most gratefully acknowledge. Without these MSS., it would have been almost impossible to have written a full and correct account of the early history of the parish, as, although Dr. Whitaker had access to the Towneley collection, he seems, in his chapter on Ribchester at any rate, to have made but a poor use of this unequalled material. My friend and collaborator, Mr. Shortt, with whom I have been in almost daily contact for the last six months, has not only written the most important part of this book, but has, also, in every possible way rendered me great assistance. The pleasure of the task of writing my portion of the book has been enhanced by this literary intercourse with Mr. Shortt.

It is with feelings of gratitude and thankfulness (for serious illnesses have accompanied me during the greater portion of the time in which I have been engaged upon this work), mingled with much humility, that I present to the subscribers the fruits of the important trust reposed in me.

TOM C. SMITH.

Green Nook, Longridge,  
New Year's Day, 1890.

P.S.—An apology is due to the subscribers for the delay in the publication of this work—a delay due to the prolonged illness of the writer.

September 1st, 1890.



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PART I.

Roman Ribchester.

(Bremetonacum.)

BY THE REV. JONATHAN SHORTT.



FOREIGN troops were stationed in Ribchester for three hundred years. All through that long period of time, soldiers wearing outlandish uniform, speaking alien tongues, officered by men from over the sea, trod its soil and kept watch and ward in and around it. Within its ramparts were congregated from age to age natives, not only of various European countries, but even of African and Asiatic regions. A constant succession of such visitors passed through this now secluded village. A greater contrast can scarcely be imagined than that between its former and its present population. It must surely be of no ordinary interest to learn what we can of the strange motley exotic tenants who occupied the place for so many generations.

Nineteen centuries ago, the inhabitants of this country were of the same race as the native Welsh and Irish, to whom the first civilised people that came in contact with it gave the name of Kelts or Celts. Tribes of this stock possessed not only the greater part of the British Isles, but also nearly all (what we call) France. People living here spoke the same tongue as the people in France, and as those in Wales and Ireland.

This widely extended stock was divided into clans, such as we read of as existing down to comparatively recent times among the Highlanders of Scotland. That was its distinctive feature. It nowhere united to form a nation. The highest organisation to which it seemed able to attain was that of a "sept" under an hereditary chief. Certain of these chiefs were very powerful. The rule of some extended across the British Channel; their clansmen occupying territories at both sides of that sea. It was this circumstance that decided Cæsar to invade Britain. So close was the connection between its inhabitants and those across the channel that the latter could not be pacified so long as the British were un-subdued. These would be ever ready to incite to disturbance, and render aid to, their continental kinsfolk. If, therefore, these were to become peaceful and contented subjects of Rome, their kindred across the sea must be brought to submission—a task which Cæsar found to be much more difficult than he expected; or he would probably never have attempted it. The clan to which the site of Ribchester belonged appears to have been a branch of a very great one, perhaps the greatest then in Britain, styled the "Brigantian." It occupied the whole of what now forms Lancashire and Yorkshire. A sub-division of it named "Setantian" was in possession of Preston and its neighbourhood: so that the estuary of the Ribble was styled in after times, by the garrison of Ribchester, the "Setantian Haven." It is possible that the name given to this portion of the Brigantian clan signified merely, "Water-folk:" as living along the river and the sea.

The organisation of the Celtic race was of its own nature fatal to its permanence. It led directly to the Roman invasion of Britain and to the establishment of that alien power. The chieftainship of each clan did not necessarily descend to the eldest son of the preceding chief; nor, as was the case in some communities, to the youngest. There was no fixed rule. It was elective: only the choice was confined to the members of one particular family.

The consequence was that there was perpetual rivalry within this family. Hence arose, within the clans, factions, and constant bloody feuds between the partizans of the competitors for

the chieftainship. Hence also arose on the part of many of these claimants perfect indifference as to the means by which they might attain their object. They would not hesitate to call in foreign power for this purpose. Accordingly, British princes appealed over and over again to the Emperor of Rome to send his troops in order to establish them in power. The most successful of these in gaining their unpatriotic suit were chieftains of the clan called Trinobantian (the Trinobantes) residing in the district round what is now named Colchester, but at that time styled Camalodunum. Several of these chieftains have handed down to us their names. Cassivelaunus was one of these; whose opponent called in against him the aid of the great Roman general, Julius Cæsar, and induced him to cross the Channel twice, for the purpose of helping him to power. The Cymbeline of Shakespeare belonged to the same house: so did the famous Caractacus. In fact, the whole early history of the connexion between Rome and Britain is bound up with that of the princely family of Camalodunum.

It is the first British town of which we have record. Julius Cæsar spent some weeks there. He describes a British town as a wood encompassed by a palisade and a ditch. The houses were similar to those across the Channel—huts made of timber. The population was comparatively large. From certain incidental expressions of ancient authors referring to Gaul (France), it has been estimated that in the latter country there were on an average 200 persons to the square mile. Southern Britain in every respect so resembled Gaul that we may infer its similarity in population: which is also the case at present in Wales.

The inhabitants were clad in the skins of the animals upon whose milk and flesh they chiefly lived. Agriculture was not practised. A free-born Celt disdained to hold a plough or handle a mattock. He liked tending cattle and horses, of which latter animal he possessed an improved breed: while he was noted for his skill in riding. He wore his hair long on the head: but shaved it off the face, except upon the upper lip. Men and women alike dyed their skin blue. Husbands had power of life and death over their wives and children. To be seen in company with them was deemed a disgrace to a man.

The British were deeply religious, so far as complete subservience to a priesthood constitutes religion. If any one offended a priest, he was shunned by the rest of his tribe. The description, given by Cæsar and others, of the ancient Celts applies in almost every particular to the still surviving fragment of the race.

Their religion was styled Druidism, owing to the veneration shown towards trees, and especially towards the oak. Druidism had its home in Britain, and its special sanctuary in the Isle of Anglesea, then called "Mona." From Britain it had been imported into Gaul; and those who wished to study it thoroughly had to come here for that purpose. Sometimes twenty years were so employed. Scholars had to learn by heart a great number of verses. These might not be written down. Writing was an innovation, and the old religion viewed it as profane. Whenever it was resorted to by Druid priests, Greek characters were employed. They looked mysterious, and whatever was calculated to excite a feeling of the dark and vague was cherished by these traders on human credulity.

To them is due the first wide-spread revolt against the newly established Roman authority. A representative of this authority, a governor, named Caius Suetonius Paullinus, observing the influence possessed by them, imagined that if they were to be attacked in their strong-hold in Anglesea, and the sacred trees, so carefully preserved in that sanctuary, were to be cut down by his soldiers, their power would seriously be shaken. He proceeded to act upon this idea. His troops penetrated into the holy island, and cut down the venerated oaks. But the achievement cost them dear; and nothing but the surpassing bravery of a Legion prevented the complete overthrow of the foreign power. This Legion styled "XIV. Pia. Fidelis" (the pious, the faithful), behaved with consummate bravery; but even it despaired of escape owing to the multitude of its enemies. At the moment that victory was within their grasp, the British, in truly Celtic fashion, slackened their onset, and allowed their prey to escape.

It may be mentioned in passing that this Legion, the bravest of the brave, was devoted in its affectionate loyalty to the Emperor Nero, certainly one of the very worst of men.

Along with it, in this crisis, was a detachment of the Legion that afterwards for centuries furnished the garrison of Ribchester. Its designation was "XX., Valeria, Victrix." Roman Legions set the example to our regiments in attaching to themselves certain titles. The twentieth called itself the "Conquering Legion," as we speak of the Conquering Hero. Another Legion, which had a detachment sometime in Ribchester, the VI., bore the same martial epithet.

At the time of the revolt in the North-west of Britain, an insurrection had broken out, in what we should call the Eastern counties. It was not due to the same cause as the other; but to the license of the soldiery, and especially to the outrages inflicted on a lady of rank, the queen of the tribe named Iceni—Boadicea and her daughters.

The whole of the district as far as London and St. Albans rose in rebellion. The garrison of Camalodunum was destroyed to the last man. It was the first legally established Roman Settlement: technically termed a "Colony." This is preserved in the first syllable of its modern name, "Colchester," which signifies Colony-camp. Originally it was the Roman capital-town. London was even then a great place of trade and the commercial metropolis. Every Roman in it at the time was killed. Altogether, it is calculated that 70,000 of these foreigners perished throughout the country.

The ninth Legion, styled "Spanish," (just as, for example, one of the English regiments of the line is styled "Canadian") was quartered at Lincoln (Lin-colony.) It marched to the relief of Colchester. It arrived too late, and assailed by overpowering numbers lost almost its entire force.

The Roman power in Britain would have been annihilated at the time but for the gallantry of the fourteenth Legion, and for the levity of the Celtic population.

It became the business of the succeeding governors to re-establish and to extend this power. It was the fortune of many of the Roman emperors—even some of the vilest—to have most conscientious and able servants. We have already noticed the devotion of the Legion just mentioned to Nero. Like devotion was shown to Caligula and Domitian, men nearly as bad, on the



part of individuals. Here is one of the marvels that in abundance attach themselves to that fateful name—Rome. No more admirable type of a governor is recorded in history than one, who ruled this country for seven years; and to whom has been attributed the founding of Ribchester—the celebrated Cnæus Julius Agricola. He thoroughly mastered the North of Britain, occupying the sacred Island—Mona (Anglesea), and extending Roman authority even to the Grampian mountains, having defeated the united Highland clans in a decisive battle fought not far from what is now called Stirling.

He left our island in the year 85.

From his time, Rome seems to have thought no more of advancing her frontiers or enlarging her dominion in these regions. One of Agricola's projects was—the Conquest of Ireland, a project, which, if carried out by him, would certainly have made the history of that island other than it has been. Demonstrably, Roman sway has in no country been without lasting effect.

But Agricola's plan was never executed. All that was now thought of was to secure the possessions already acquired. It was with this view, that the most wonderful military structure in the world was erected in the north of this country—the famous Roman Wall. It was not, as so commonly believed, a boundary wall in any way. It was in truth a great entrenched camp—or rather a great fortress—extending right across the island from sea to sea, and intended to control the natives on both sides of what we call the “Border.” This is evident from its construction, of which some details may appropriately here be given, as, in the writer's opinion, Ribchester was one of a chain of military stations associated with the Wall; part of a system of communication between it and the important garrison of Chester, head-quarters of a Legion. The great fortification required, in order to maintain it adequately, at least ten thousand troops; and it had for support and in reserve the two northern military centres—York and that just mentioned. From these depôts, it would receive its continually needed reinforcements. It was, as is evident, essential that there should be easy and secure means of intercourse between them. Ribchester was founded for this pur-



pose, one of a series of forts established to protect a great line of communication; than which nothing is more important in warfare.

The fortification lies along a military road reaching from Bowness on the Solway to Wall's-end on the Tyne, a distance of sixty-eight miles and three furlongs. On the north side of this was built a wall originally eighteen or nineteen feet high, and eight feet thick. The outer masonry consisted on both sides of carefully squared freestone blocks; the inside of rubble of any sort, firmly embedded in mortar.

In front of the Wall facing north was a ditch or fosse, on an average, fifteen feet deep and thirty-six wide. In many places it was cut through solid rock. To the south side of the Wall and road, there were three ramparts and a fosse. One of these ramparts is placed close upon the southern edge of the ditch; the others of larger dimensions stand one to the north, and the other to the south of it, at a distance of about twenty-four feet. These ramparts stand in some parts of the line even at present six or seven feet above the level of the neighbouring ground. They are composed of earth mingled not unfrequently with masses of stone.

The third and most important part of the vast fortress consisted of the structures that were formed for the accommodation of the soldiers, and for the ready transmission of troops and stores. Along the line at distances which average nearly four miles, were erected what were called stations. They were in fact military cities adapted for the residence of the commandant of the district, and providing secure lodgment for the powerful body of soldiery under his orders.

They were uniformly quadrangular in shape, though somewhat rounded at the corners, and contain an area of from three to five acres. A stone wall five feet thick enclosed them, strengthened probably in every instance by a fosse and one or more earthen ramparts. All had four gateways, one upon each of the four sides.

There were either seventeen or eighteen of these stations. Between these, at distances of a mile from each other were castles. They were quadrangular buildings, differing somewhat in size, but usually measuring from sixty to seventy feet in each direction. They had but one gate of entrance, which was of very substantial

masonry, and was uniformly placed in the centre of the south Wall.

Between the mile-Castles, four buildings, generally denominated turrets or watch towers, were placed. They were within call of each other, and were little better than stone sentry-boxes. Of these there were three hundred and twenty in all.

This description<sup>1</sup> will give some idea of the might and majesty of the genius of the Emperor, to whom the conception of such a monstrous work of military engineering is due—the Emperor Hadrian.

To this wonderful man the founding of Ribchester is most likely due. The place gains interest as being created by him. It is something to be able to ascribe its origin to the ideas of a great mind. Not from caprice, nor from local fancy, but from far-reaching plans and interests of world-wide extent arose the camp at this spot. Generally, Agricola has been credited with being its founder. But in course of excavations made in the year 1888, at the instance of the writer, a coin of the Emperor Nerva was found in such a position as would indicate its being dropped at the time the rampart was raised. The coin lay in the base at the very heart of that earthwork. The workman or a by-stander must have lost it at the time the earth was being piled up. Consequently, as the probable date of the coin was eleven years after Agricola's departure from this country, the building of the defence that constituted a camp or chester—the vallum or earthen rampart—could not have been due to him.

Rather; Ribchester is a link in a chain, binding hand and foot the North Britons, and riveted to the cross-bar of the Great Wall. We know that the latter from the time of its construction became the base of military operations in this region. To these Ribchester was an important subsidiary.

The links of the chain between Chester and the Great Wall are distinctly traceable, being strung together by connecting roads. The chief components of the chain are Manchester (MANCUNIVM), Wigan (COCCIVM, Ribchester (BREMETONACVM), Over-

<sup>1</sup>See *The Roman Wall*, by Rev. J. Collingwood Bruce, M.A., London, 1851.

borough (GALACUM), Borrowbridge (ALONE), Kirby Thore (GALAVA), and Whiteley Castle (GLANOVENTA). From the last place, the Roman high road, styled the "Maiden Way," leads directly to the fortification.

The last named station bears a certain resemblance to that which is the subject of this chapter: in that the garrison trusted to breastworks of earth rather than of masonry, no trace of surrounding mortared walls having been detected in either place.

The situation of Ribchester would be ill suited for a modern fortification, commanded as it is by higher ground; but the conditions of warfare have wholly changed, since its creation as a military post; as have also the habits of the natives of Britain. These were in the same state as the New Zealanders are now: brave, but childish in their way of warfare, as compared with the Roman tactics, matured by long experience and profoundly studied observation. Their sagacious enemy dealt with the British according to their lights, and placed their own camps where they would best serve the purpose of controlling the wild natives.

Like Chester, Manchester, and most other chesters of the same people, ours was placed close to a river, which flows, as well as in the two places named, on the south. It would here serve the purpose of the fosse or ditch needed on the other three sides.

As being readily accessible from north and south, at a time that the passage through the lower country to the west was intercepted by swamps and marshes, it may be assumed that it answered well its principal object, as an intermediate station between two great military centres in close inter-dependence.

Its being a place of passage, through which great numbers of troops were continually travelling during ten generations, will account for the value, artistic and otherwise, of articles found from time to time, as well as for the tradition of its wealth. <sup>1</sup>A rhyme once common at the place preserved this tradition:—

"It is written upon a wall in Rome :  
Ribchester was as rich as any town in Christendom."

<sup>1</sup>The remainder of this chapter is a compilation chiefly from the late Mr.

Thompson Watkin's *Roman Lancashire*

The finding of a poor soldier's discharge, which vouched to be a copy of a brazen tablet affixed to a wall behind Augustus's temple, near that of Minerva, at Rome, might give rise to the statement in the first line. In such estimation were well-behaved soldiers held, that when they had served their time, and got their discharge "with good conduct," their names were engraved on brass plates, and these were fastened to the walls of public buildings in the capital of the empire. The opinion that it was so rich would arise from the great number of coins that have been found. The chester or camp was by no means remarkable among Roman posts for size. It was certainly nearly twice as large as that of Manchester, and was probably the largest in Lancashire; but it was only one-fifth of the size of Wroxeter, in Shropshire, the so-called British Pompeii, and much smaller than Chester and other well-known Roman camps.

Its limits are in parts distinctly visible, the outline of fosse and vallum, or (in Lancashire phrase) "dyke and cop," being quite apparent, especially on the south-western side, at about forty feet from the present church-yard wall. Measuring across from the outside of the vallum (or cop) to the outside of the vallum on the opposite side, the north-eastern, at about two hundred and fifty feet from the eastern churchyard wall, the distance is found to be six hundred and eleven feet. The distance from the north-western vallum to the river is six hundred and fifteen feet. If the camp had been nearly square originally, as many Roman ones were, little or none of it can have been washed away. Its present area will have been its primitive one; an approximate square of rather more than two hundred yards, containing a little above eight acres and a half.

The corners were rounded off. They faced the cardinal points. Through the angle pointing northward, a little below the extreme point, a gateway was discovered last year (1888) in course of the excavations already mentioned. It was fourteen feet wide. The end of the wall at each side of the opening was carefully rounded. It was evident here, as elsewhere, how the vallum had been constructed.

The base was formed of boulder stones put together without mortar. It lies about six feet below the present surface of the







vallum ; and this is in general two feet six inches above the level of the surrounding ground. It is from four feet nine inches to five feet three inches broad at the base. Upon this base was raised the earthen rampart, the soil of which it was composed requiring to be well beaten or battered to enable it to hold together, and not crumble down.

In all probability a stockade was set on the top. Outside the vallum, on the south-western side, is a fosse (or dyke) of which the outer limit is about forty-three feet from the vallum. The original depth could not be ascertained, as it was sunk in river gravel. It is now filled up to within two feet of the level of the adjoining fields. An appearance is presented at a point on this side of a flat space intervening between the fosse and the vallum ; but this is, most likely, due to subsequent alteration, and was not part of the original structure. If it were, it would be very peculiar and unaccountable.

Some details may here be given of this rampart, as examined in 1888-89.

Eight cuttings have been made through it, seven in the former year, one in the latter. That which we shall call the first was on the south-western side, one hundred and forty-four feet from the western angle. Here the vallum is four feet six inches wide at the base, which is five feet below the surface. About two feet of the original height remains.

Inside the vallum, but at a distance of four feet from it and level with the base, was found a layer of oak shingles—that is, pieces of split oak—each about four to five feet long, two or three inches deep, and three to four inches wide, placed at right angles to the vallum and at about seven inches apart, with their widest sides laid horizontally. These shingles are pointed at the end next the vallum, and broader and squarer at the other end. Over them, and reaching up to the vallum, is a layer of placed clay three feet thick.

Section No. 2 was made close to the western angle. Here the vallum is six feet wide at the base, which is at the same level as in the former section. This second cutting was carried deeper than the other, both outside and inside. Below the base was found part of a layer of placed or “imported” clay, which thins

out toward the fosse. Below this layer, on the outside, is a layer of red sand two feet in thickness, and under it is gravel.

Inside were three rows of shingles, all lying in the same direction—at right angles to the vallum. One row touches it. This row is four feet six inches long. At an interval of a few inches is another row of about the same length, and beyond this, extending still further into the enclosure, is a third row of much longer shingles, from nine to fourteen feet long, pointed at their further ends. Under them is a layer of imported dark clay.

The oak placed upon this substance had stained it in streaks of blueish colour. It was curious to see, on the shingles being removed, a series of highly-coloured lines drawn, as it were, in regular order across this subterranean platform. Upon these shingles lay a thickness of three feet of imported clay. The lowest substratum of all was gravel.

Section No. 3 was made nearly mid-way between the western and northern angles. It, as well as section No. 4, at ninety-five feet from the latter angle, were uninformative; so was No. 7, at forty-eight feet south of the angle.

Sections Nos. 5 and 6 must be described together. They disclosed the two jambs of a gateway. Here was found a layer of shingles extending from the interior through the gateway to the length of seven or eight feet outside. They were placed obliquely to the line bisecting the angle, or, in homelier words, were laid somewhat slantways to the direction of the gateway. They were five feet six inches below the surface, and were much larger and somewhat longer than any before-mentioned. Under them is a layer nine inches in thickness, of which the upper part is fine gravel, and the lower decayed matter. Below this layer was a floor of oak planks, smooth, and tightly jointed, stretching across the gateway. Under this is a layer nine inches thick, composed of gravel and fine dark matter, as before; and beneath were four large shingles, about fourteen feet long, one foot wide, and six inches deep, somewhat like railway sleepers. They were laid at right angles to the upper layer of shingles, and rested on undisturbed gravel.

At the end of the vallum, on the north-eastern side, was a stout oak post, found standing upright, as if it were a gate-post.

It, as well as the planks and many of the shingles, have been deposited in the Preston Museum.

There can be little doubt that these correspond to the objects spoken of by Dr. Stukeley, the noted antiquary, who visited Ribchester in the year 1725. He says: "Viewing the breach of the bank exposed thereby," (that is, by encroachments of the the Ribble) "I saw the joists and boards of a floor of oak, four feet under the present surface, and such floors are to be seen along the whole bank."

The "floor of oak" may have been below the gateway of the eastern or southern angle; and the "floor along the whole bank" may have been the shingles along the interior of the vallum extending between these angles; the vallum itself having been swept away on that side, where the river constituted the fosse.

As for the purpose of these shingles, an eminent antiquary thinks that they were intended to form a secure foundation for the path behind the rampart, which was the one most traversed, as by the incessant tread of the sentries. That this was the object appears to be shewn by the fact of the shingles extending outside the *gate*, and nowhere else outside the vallum.

They have, as far as the writer has been able to learn, been met with in no other Roman camp; but are said to have occurred in some lake dwellings, where they no doubt served the purpose above assigned to them.

Another peculiarity of Ribchester Camp is the gate being placed in an angle of the quadrilateral instead of, as usual, in the middle of a side; but the object of the fortification would determine this. As a Station on a great north and south road, the main street would take that direction, and the principal issues would be to the north and south.

The section No. 8, made in December, 1889, was made in the western angle. It revealed a gateway in a position exactly corresponding to that in the northern angle, but it was only half the width, seven feet instead of fourteen. No oak planks formed the floor; only shingles such as lie under the path along the vallum were met with.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> By an unfortunate misunderstanding, for which neither of the

writers of this book is responsible, no sketch has been made of section No. 8.

Generally, a camp formed a nucleus round which other habitations clustered. Here was some degree of security, some trade; here was the attraction of more civilised ways of living than those that existed in the wild regions surrounding. One can readily imagine that in the pleasant river valley, people of gentler tastes than those of the bulk of the rude natives would congregate, fixing their homes near a centre of something less barbarous, of something more orderly than was elsewhere to be found. Here they could see and hear things far beyond the conceptions of the majority of their race. Whereas, to these, murder and havoc were the sources of supreme pleasure, as to savages at the present day, whether resident in England or abroad (hence the gusto with which accounts of murder are read and the delight with which a destructive fire is witnessed); to better natures peace and cultivation would be more attractive. However defective, according to our present standard, might the Romans be in civilisation, they were immeasurably superior to the savages of the land. Around Roman Camps, then, better spirits would assemble. Their habitations would form suburbs. Such arose around Ribchester, and have caused the notion that the camp was larger than had been the case. But, taking in the suburbs, it may easily have been as stated by Dr. Stukeley, eight hundred feet in an east and west direction; and considerable portions may have been swept away by the river—not, however, to the extent of “a third of the whole city,” as he imagined.

The six-inch Ordnance Map (reproduced in this work) represents it as nearly double the size of the camp proper, and as extending to Cowley Brook; and such we may fairly consider to have been the space occupied by human habitations and edifices of various kinds sixteen or seventeen hundred years ago.

And, first, we proceed to speak of the public buildings then in use at Ribchester.

There was certainly at least one considerable temple, as well as one, possibly two others, of smaller size. One of the latter furnished the four pillars now forming the entrance to the inn called “The White Bull,” itself an ancient hostelry (see illustration, chap. xii.), but quite modern in comparison with the building to which the columns originally belonged. They are six feet seven

in height and a foot in diameter midway between the ends. They are of what is termed "Doric" style, debased.

Of the same style was the larger temple, which was, judging from the positions of its remains, one hundred and twelve feet long, with sixteen pillars in front and others all around, forming a peristyle, as it was called. There was an inscription over the southern entrance. It has been found, and when expanded reads, (DEO . . . P)RO (SALUTE IMPERATORIS . . . . . ET JULIAE . . . . . MA) TRIS D(OMINI( N(OSTRI) ET (C)ASTR(ORUM) SU(B CURA) VAL(ERII) CRESCENTIS FUL(VI)ANI LEG(ATI) EIVS PR(O PRAETORE). T(ITUS) FLORID(IUS) NATALIS LEG(ATUS) PRAEP(OSITUS) N(OSTER) ET RECT(OR) TEMPLUM A SOLO EX RESPONSU (RE)STITUIT ET DEDICAVIT DE SUA PECUNIA. The translation being, "To the deity; for the safety (or welfare) of the Emperor . . . . . and of Julia . . . . . the mother of our lord (the Emperor) and the camps under the care of Valerius Crescens Fulvianus his Legate (and) Pro-Prætor, Titus Floridius Natalis, Legate, our Præpositus and Governor, from the reply (of the deity or oracle) restored the temple from the ground and inaugurated it, at his own expense."

The title of the Empress Julia as "mother of the Emperor and of the camp" would fix the date of the inscription within a few years, but for there being two ladies who bore this designation: Julia Domna, mother of Caracalla, and Julia Mamæa, mother of Severus Alexander. However, they were not separated by any great interval of time; and we know that the restoration in question must have taken place in the early part of the third century of our era; between the years A.D. 211 and A.D. 235. Julia Domna was the wife of an emperor who may have visited Ribchester; as he spent three years in North Britain previous to his death at York. He and his son visited Chester together. They would be well known consequently in this district, and inscriptions would more probably record their names than those of personages total strangers to the place.

The aspiration for their safety was not realised, whoever of the two Julias and their two sons may have been the subject of the benevolent wish. Julia Domna starved herself to death from



dread of a certain aspirant to her husband's throne: her son was assassinated. The other son and Julia Mamaea met the same fate.

When we read of a temple needing re-building from the ground in less than (or, at all events, not much more than) one hundred years after the founding of the settlement, we naturally inquire what can have brought the sacred edifice into such a state of delapidation. It gives us a glimpse of the early history of Ribchester.

About sixty years after its establishment, it was attacked by the Caledonians, inhabitants of what we call Scotland, and was in a great degree ruined. These fierce barbarians had risen in revolt, burst through the Great Wall, killed the Roman general in command of the troops cantoned there, cut the greater part of his army to pieces, and made themselves masters for a time of a considerable portion of the whole island. They are thus described by Dion Cassius, a Roman historian of the time.<sup>1</sup> "They dwell upon wild and waterless mountains, and barren and marshy plains, and have neither towns nor farms, but live upon pasture, the chase, and fruit trees; for they do not taste fish, though these are innumerable and inexhaustible. They live in tents, unclothed and unshod . . . . The government is a democracy, and they are fond of plundering expeditions. They fight in chariots, and have small and swift horses. They have also foot-soldiers, very active and very stubborn, in their ranks. Their arms are, a shield, a short spear with a bronze apple at the extremity of the shaft, so that when shaken it makes a clanking noise to frighten the enemy. They have also daggers. They are capable of enduring hunger and cold and every sort of misery; for they can plunge into swamps and hold out for many days with only their head out of water, and can feed in the woods upon bark and roots; and in particular they prepare a sort of food, of which if they eat the size of a bean, they feel no hunger or thirst." Such is the account of the people that, there is reason to believe, made a fearful visitation to Ribchester in the year, A.D. 184. From that time forward for nearly thirty years, there was such continual disturbance in the country that building or restoration would not

<sup>1</sup> Dion Cassius, LXXVI., 12.



be thought of. These are only undertaken in times of peace. The marvellous energy of one man, the emperor, Septimius Severus, gained this blessing for North Britain: at the cost of fifty thousand soldiers' lives, and eventually of his own. He went along with his troops far into the Caledonian wilds; though so ill that he had to be carried in a litter. But he so effectually subdued the country that we hear of no more troubles in this neighbourhood for many years.

The bases of some of the columns of this restored temple are probably those still to be seen in the Rectory garden. They are of rude workmanship; not exactly circular, one diameter exceeding the other by three-fourths of an inch. They appear to have belonged to a building in the Doric style. The eventual fate of the restored temple was destruction by fire. Excavations made between the river and the churchyard showed at a slight distance beneath the surface, immediately under the vegetable mould a layer of charcoal, evidently the remains of a roof that had been burnt. Nearly in the centre of this layer, a cavity had been formed, by the uniting of the ends of the beams in their fall, large enough to contain a man sitting. Beneath this was a confused mass of large jars, some almost entire on first discovery, and many remains of red ("Samian") ware. Several skeletons of tall powerful men were lying among them. The conclusion arrived at by the explorer, the celebrated antiquary, Dr. Whitaker, was that the building had been stormed and burned—some of the defenders perishing in the ruins. It is an extraordinary fact that no roof tiles or slates were found. An ornament of one of the corners was a rude statue of a lion. Another sacred edifice may be inferred to have existed from the circumstance of portions of two cylindrical columns, each with a capital and remains of foliage, having been formerly preserved at Salesbury; one in a cottage, the other at Salesbury Hall. They formed part of an edifice of a different style of architecture from that of the others already mentioned. It was built in the Corinthian style.

Another public building was, it is likely, the "Forum," the usual place for public resort in Roman towns. It probably has furnished an inscribed stone, seen by the antiquary, Horsley, "lying at the door of a dwelling-house." He and another

writer (whose name is not known) have given copies of what was engraven upon it, IMPERATORI CAESARI MARCO AURELIO ANTONINO . . . . . ET IMPERATORI CAESARI LUCIO AURELIO VERO . . . . . AUGUSTIS, VEXILLATIO LEGIONIS SEXTAE VICTRICIS . . . . . SUB SEXTO CALPURNIO AGRICOLA LEGATO AUGUSTORUM PRO PRAETORE: so that the general meaning can be divined. In English it signifies: "To the emperor Cæsar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus . . . . and to the emperor Lucius Aurelius Verus . . . . the Augusti: a battalion of the Sixth Legion, the Conquering . . . . under Sextus Calpurnius Agricola, Legate of the Augusti (or Emperors) Pro Prætor."

The spaces marked above with dots, after "Antoninus" and "Verus" probably contained their titles, and the space after "Conquering" would contain an account of the nature of the work which the battalion (or "vexillation," such being the technical military term) had done. If the building had been a temple, it might have said, "restored the temple": or, if a forum, "restored the forum."

The anonymous copier of this inscription, speaking of the portion between the commencement (restored as here given) says that the letters were there "burned off."

In the reign of Commodus, an emperor who reigned from A.D. 180 to A.D. 193, as we have seen, there was a great revolt of the northern tribes, who after breaking through the Great Wall, poured down upon the stations lying to the south. This slab would then be barely twenty years old. Have we not in this fire-scarred slab a trace of this insurrection and disastrous event in the history of our town, when its public buildings were all burnt?

Of private houses outside the camp in what we have styled the suburb, some remains of a room furnished with a heating apparatus called hypocaust, (from the warmth being supplied beneath the floor of the chamber) were found in the month of February, 1837, in Dr. Patchett's garden.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr. R. A. Patchett, son of the late Dr. Patchett mentioned, now

occupies the same house as his father did.

We are told that the ground floor was roughly paved, and over it, supported by rude stone pillars, only a foot in height, was a layer of fine cement, three feet in thickness, the upper surface of which was laid with flags and tiles. Most of the latter, and some of the pillars were taken away, and the floor covered up. The room may possibly have been a bath. Its dimensions were thirty feet by fifteen, and its walls were three feet in thickness. A portion of a leaden pipe, some illegible coins, and fragments of glass were found in it.

Proceeding next to lesser objects of public use, we notice first those of a sacred kind, such as altar stones. These are of the deepest interest for various reasons, as they bear inscriptions indicating the opinions on religious matters of former dwellers in Ribchester, as well as its Roman name.

The longest known altar here was dug up in the year 1678, and is now preserved at St. John's College, Cambridge. It is four feet two inches high, "a large and ornamental one," and bore an inscription, DEO SAN(CTO) APOL(L)INI MAPON(O) PRO SALUTE D(OMINI) N(OSTRI) ET N(UMERI) EQ(UITUM) SAR(MATARUM) BREMETENN(ACENSIUM) GORDIANI (?) . . . . ANTONINUS LEG(IONIS) SEXTAE VIC(TRICIS) DOMU MELITENUS . . . . . which signifies: "To the holy god Apollo Maponus, for the welfare of our lord (the Emperor), and of the Numerus of Sarmatian horse of Bremetennacum (styled) the Gordian, Antoninus, of the Sixth Legion (styled) the Conquering, . . . . By birth a Melitene."

On the right side is a figure representing the god Apollo with his lyre, still very effective. If the left was ever sculptured the carving has perished. The figures on the back are two females holding some object (too much worn to be recognisable) between them.

The head of the altar was probably removed when it was used as a building stone; as it was at Salesbury Hall, where it was inserted in the corner of a wall almost immediately after its first discovery.

Two other inscribed altars have been found in Britain bearing the name "Maponus." On one of these he is styled, as here,

Apollo Maponus. Moreover, the altar was dedicated to him by a centurion of the same Legion, the Sixth. His name was Terentius Firmus, he was an Italian, while the officer of that corps stationed at Ribchester was perhaps a Maltese. The other altar dedicated to Maponus has been found at a station not far from the Great Wall, with which Ribchester was so closely connected. It is not known what notions were associated with this epithet. The Apollo of Rome was considered to be the patron of music and generally of refined tastes. Maponus may have been a title borrowed from that of some being venerated in this region. The Roman readily adopted, amongst his own, the gods of the countries that he conquered. "The devout polytheist, though fondly attached to his national rites, admitted with implicit faith the different religions of the earth." Some deity bearing an appellation resembling this word in sound was perhaps venerated by the British tribe, native to the adjoining country. The foreign troops would observe the devotion rendered to him, and affected by it would try to propitiate him by erecting altars in his honour.

But if the ideas associated with this divine being are obscure, there is clear information afforded by this inscription on two most important matters: First as to the Roman name of Ribchester; and second as to troops forming its garrison. Its name was *Bremetennacum*.

We must remember that those who gave it this name were foreigners, moreover that the natives of Ribchester spoke quite a different language from theirs and from ours. So that their local names, as pronounced by Romans, would sound doubly strange to our ears. It may however be observed that the first syllable of the name is to be met with in the title of several neighbouring localities that retain traces of their original Celtic appellation such as *Bryn*, *Brindle*, *Brinscall*, *Brimicroft*. The last two syllables may be discerned in *Galacum* the name of the next station on the northern road, as well as in *Eboracum* (York.) How names of places are altered in lapse of time may be judged from the fact, that the latter of these two words is derived from the former: *York* is *Eboracum* changed. There are two ancient guide or hand books of this country in which this name occurs,



in one written Bremetonacum; in the other, Bremetennacum. The more ancient of these books<sup>1</sup> is a sort of working road-book, containing a list of military roads of the Roman Empire, with the names of the stations upon them, and an approximate measurement of the distances between each station. It gives the road from Chesterton in Staffordshire, to Whitley Castle in Northumberland, by Manchester and Wigan, with the stations upon it and their distances from each other; and places Bremetonacum just where Ribchester is now, twenty miles more or less from Wigan, and thirty-one from Manchester by this route. There was, it is true, a direct road from Manchester to Ribchester, but it is not mentioned in the book in question, either because it was constructed subsequently to the work being published, or because there was no important station upon it, whereas Wigan (named by it "Coccium") was a regular camp. The name just mentioned has generally been assigned to Ribchester, but the late Mr. Thompson Watkin, in his book already referred to, has I think, satisfactorily established the claim of Wigan to be Coccium, and Ribchester to be Bremetonacum.

The other book<sup>2</sup> gives a list of the Roman provinces, with the titles of the governors, and of the chief civil and military dignitaries, a list of the forces under each, and the names of the places where they were in garrison. This work, after giving the names of some of the Roman stations on the Great Wall with their garrisons, proceeds to name others in the northern counties, and amongst them Bremetennacum along with two others on the line of road between Ribchester and the Wall. It says that at this place was a detachment of "Armaturæ."

Now the altar inscription before us tells us that a troop of Sarmatarum set it up. In all probability Armaturæ is a mistake for Sarmatarum; so that the book tells us of Bremetennacum. What we know from other sources (to be subsequently noticed) about Ribchester is, that Polish lancers, or Cossacks, as we should style them, were once in garrison here—Sarmatia, from which they got their name, being applied to an immense tract of country including Poland and part of Russia.

<sup>1</sup>Called *The Itinerary of Antoninus*.  
It was compiled A.D. 138-140.

<sup>2</sup>Called *Notitia Imperii*, compiled  
early in the 5th century of the  
Christian era.

Another altar mentions soldiers of a different race as quartered here. The stone was noticed more than three hundred years ago, and some twenty years after this first observation, the antiquary Camden says of it: "In the year 1603, when I came a second time to see Ribchester, I met with an altar, the largest and fairest that I ever saw with this inscription." DEIS MATRIBUS M(ARCUS) INGENUIUS ASIATICUS DEC(URIO) AL(AE) AST(URUM) S(USCEPTUM) S(OLVIT) L(AETUS) L(IBENS) M(ERITO). Translated it signifies: "To the goddess mothers, Marcus Ingenuus Asiaticus, a Decurion of the cavalry regiment (or wing) of the Astures, performs his vow (or undertaking) willingly and dutifully to a deserving object." The Astures were Spaniards. Another case of natives of the Continent of Europe living in Ribchester.

Camden says that the altar was in the house of one Thomas Rhodes. Thence it was taken to Salisbury, next to Dinckley Hall, and, eventually, in 1822 to Stonyhurst College, where it is now preserved; but the inscription is nearly obliterated.

It was the first altar found in Britain dedicated to the goddess mothers. Since Camden's time, about thirty-five more dedications to these mothers under various titles have been found. "To the Mothers across the sea;" "To the Mothers of the fields;" "To the Mothers of the home;" "To one's own Mothers."

Sculptures representing these divine Mothers have frequently been found on various ancient sites. They appear generally as three sitting female figures, each bearing a basket of fruit in her lap. They seem to have been considered as watching over the houses, property, and welfare of the people. Faith in them formed part of the religious creed of dwellers in Ribchester.

The same author, Camden, informs us that he saw also another altar, a "little" one, cast out among the rubbish. It bore an inscription, PACIFERO MARTI . ELEC AVRA . POSUIT EX. VOTO, which probably signifies "To Peace-bringing Mars, Feliciania Aureliana has placed this in fulfilment of a vow."

This is the only inscription found in Britain to Peace-bringing Mars. Mars was held in old religion to be the god of war. To call him peace-bringing sounds a contradiction, unless it be an



anticipation of the saying, "If you wish for peace, be prepared for war."

In 1580, was seen "att Mr. Preston's, att Preston, a stone from Ribchester," which was probably the base of an altar, and bore the following inscription, PATER(NIUS) SATURN(I)NUS I(OVI) O(PTIMO) V(OVIT) L(IBENS).<sup>1</sup> As translated: "Paternius Saturninus has willingly vowed this to Jupiter the Best."

We have here again in addition to Mars, the name of another deity worshipped in our town. He generally bore an additional epithet—that of "greatest:" as being the supreme god of Roman mythology, and adored as such, wherever Roman sway extended. Another inscription found here is given differently by its two transcribers.

The stone itself, an altar, has disappeared. It had been preserved at Salesbury Hall, where Camden saw it; Robert Talbot also described it, so both versions are given. According to Camden the whole inscription was, DEO MARTI ET VICTORIAE DD. AVGG. ET . CC . NN . Talbot's version being: DEO MARTI ET VICTORIAE P. R. . . . NO H . CC . NN "To the god Mars, and to the victory of our lords the Augusti and Cæsar." If Camden's be the correct reading (with an emendation of a single letter, substituting N.D. for D.D.), the date could not have been earlier than A.D. 292: for in that year, two personages received the distinctive title of Cæsar from the two superior princes that bore the higher style of Augustus. The latter two were Diocletian and Maximian: the former were Caius Galerius Valerius and Constantius Chlorus.

With these persons thus publicly prayed for in our town, many historical memories are associated. The father of Diocletian had belonged to a most abject and forlorn class—had been a slave. He himself became the first in rank of human beings, was moreover a statesman of very high order, regenerator for a time of the decaying empire, if not the founder of a new.

Maximian was born a peasant. He was ignorant of letters. To the last, even when seated on the throne, he showed by his appearance and manners the meanness of his extraction. War

<sup>1</sup>The letters I.O.V.L are expanded, according to Dr. Hübner's conjecture.

was the only art he professed : but in this he was a master. His valour, his constancy, and experience rendered him equal to the most arduous undertakings.

Galerius had been a herdsman : became a general of great military skill : but, a man of stern temper, while he commanded the esteem of his subjects, he seldom condescended to solicit their affections. Having won a great victory over the King of Persia in the far East, he gained an immense booty. It is told of one of his soldiers, that a bag of shining leather filled with pearls having fallen into his hands, the soldier threw away the pearls, but carefully preserved the bag.

Constantius was of better family than any of the others, and of less fierce and cruel temper. Britain had been lost to Rome for ten years, through the usurpation of the admiral that commanded the Roman fleet stationed in the British Channel—"the Channel fleet" of those days. The name of this admiral was Carausius. Roman writers say that he was a Dutchman of very low birth ; but Dr. Stukeley, who visited and gave a description of Ribchester, already referred to, makes him out to be a native of St. David's, in Wales, and a prince of the blood royal of Britain. However this may be, he persuaded the legions and auxiliaries which guarded the island to embrace his party, and boldly assuming the purple dress and the title of Augustus, defied his lawful sovereign. He is said to have been proclaimed at York, and may have visited our town. He held the title of Emperor in Britain for seven years. "Fortune," says Gibbon, "continued propitious to a rebellion supported with courage and ability." He defended the frontiers of his dominions against the Caledonians of the North. He invited from the Continent a great number of skilful artists, and displayed on a variety of coins, that are still extant, his taste and opulence. (One of these, golden, has been sold for 150 pounds sterling.) He was murdered by his prime minister, named Allectus, who also assumed the imperial title, and held it during three years. He was beaten in battle by Constantius : who, like William the Conqueror, seven hundred and sixty years afterwards, won the island by a single battle. This occurred in the year A.D. 298. Six years afterwards Diocletian and Maximian resigned the empire to the Cæsars Galerius and

Constantius Chlorus. The altar must have been erected during this interval. Constantius got his epithet of Chlorus—"the pale one"—from his complexion.

Britain fell to his share in the partition of the empire. He immediately came over and fixed his residence at York. And there, after two years, he died. After his death, he, like his predecessors, was numbered among the gods: and the ceremony of his apotheosis or consecration is supposed to have been performed at York. The tale has been told, and believed, even by Camden, that a sepulchral lamp, kindled at his burial, was found still burning when his tomb was opened after twelve hundred years.

His son Constantine, called "the Great," succeeded him, being proclaimed Emperor by the army at York, where he was at the time of his father's death, and where he is said by some to have been born. He was the first Emperor of Rome that professed the Christian faith. It is quite within possibility that he may have been here. At all events, his father was prayed to and worshipped in the military chapel within the camp, for in every camp was a military chapel, where the ensigns were deposited and the deified emperors were adored.

The lower portion of an altar formerly built into a chimney here, is now preserved at St. John's College, Cambridge. It had been dedicated to some deity by a person whose name is lost. The inscription is given, . . . . .  
CUM SUIS V(OTUM) S(OLVIT) L(IBENS) M(ERITO)  
"Along with his family, he performs his vow willingly to a deserving object."

On the 28th February, 1833, there was found whilst digging in the churchyard, a fine inscribed altar, now at Sharples Hall, near Bolton, in the possession of the Marquis de Rothwell. The inscription is, PRO SALVTE ET VICTORIA INVICTI IMP MAR AVR SEVER ANTONINI P F AVG ET IVL AUG MATRI D N ET CAS RIS SEPT RS . . . The signification of the inscription as translated is: "For the safety (or welfare) and victory of the unconquerable emperor, Marcus Aurelius Severus Antoninus, the Pious, the Fortunate, Augustus, and of Julia Augusta, the mother of our lord (the emperor) and

of the camp." The remainder of the inscription cannot be deciphered, and there was most likely part of it detached before the altar was exhumed. Its sides bear representations of vine branches, now much worn, and it appears to have been partially reddened, as if by burning.

The inscription is in honour of Caracalla and his mother Julia Domna, widow of Septimius Severus. The seventh and part of the eighth line have contained the names and titles of the emperor Geta, which have been purposely effaced by order of his brother Caracalla. The same erasure occurs in many inscriptions in Britain and all over the Roman world. As the original inscription was executed between the death of Septimius Severus and the murder of Geta, its date is fixed within twelve months—between February, A.D. 211 and February, A.D. 212.

One can imagine the feeling in the place, as the stone cutter was seen effacing the name of Geta; and when the news of how he died became spread abroad—that he was killed in his mother's arms, while her other son stood by encouraging and assisting the fury of the assassins. It would be told in the streets how the distracted mother strove to protect her child, and in the vain attempt had been covered with his blood, and wounded in the hand. It would afterwards be known that neither business, nor pleasure, nor flattery could defend the fratricide from the stings of a guilty conscience; that he confessed in the anguish of a tortured mind, that he often beheld the angry forms of his father and brother rising into life to threaten and upbraid him. In course of time people would learn with satisfaction that he had been stabbed by one of his own guards. The tragical end of his mother starving herself to death would also be spread through Ribchester.

In the year 1818 an altar, uninscribed, was found in the cellar of the "White Bull" Inn. It was kept for some time in the back yard of the house, where it was seen by the members of the British Archæological Association in 1850; but has now disappeared.

A portion of an altar without inscription is preserved at the Rectory; and with it a sculptured fragment bearing two emblems, one of which is supposed to denote the shears with which the



weird Fates, goddesses once believed in here, were supposed to sever the thread of human life.

A rude statue of Hercules from this place is now at the Old Hall, at Tabley, in Cheshire. It is two feet six inches in height, and represents the demigod holding his huge club, the top resting on the ground, in his right hand; while over the left shoulder is thrown the skin of the Nemean lion, a formidable beast, which it had been the first of his twelve fated labours to slay. The wonderful adventures of this amazing hero would be a frequent theme of soldiers' talk. He would be the Jack the Giant Killer to children in Ribchester in those far-away days.

The first Roman tombstone, of whose discovery there is any record is thus described by Camden: "Here was lately dug up a stone with the portraiture of a naked man on horseback, without saddle or bridle, brandishing his spear with both hands, and insulting over a naked man, prostrate, who defends himself with something in the form of a square. Between the horse and the person prostrate stand the letters D.M. Under the prostrate person are GAL. SARMATA. The other letters (for there were many more) are so defaced that they cannot be read, and I shall not venture to guess at them."

A very similar description of this stone is given in a letter written by Thomas Braithwaite, dated Lancaster, 16 January, 1604, who adds the further particulars that the prostrate man had his face turned upwards, and held his right hand up; also that the horse had his right forefoot on the same man's head. The "square" which he held in his left hand resembled a book shut.

The letters D.M. are usually to be met with on Roman tombstones, and, whenever they are engraven on a stone, it is a sure sign of its being sepulchral. They denote a dedication "to the gods, the shades" (DEIS, or DIS MANIBUS), the divinities of the nether world, whither the dead were supposed to go. All sorts of fantastic legends about the future state occupied Ribchester minds at the time we are treating of. The dead were supposed to go to a kingdom ruled over by a god styled Pluto. When once admitted, they were prevented from ever quitting the infernal realm by a fierce triple-headed dog that guarded its gates. Hercules, whose

statue has been found here, as already mentioned, was believed to have mastered this dog Cerberus, and to have carried off from Pluto's dominions a loved girl.

Referring to the inscription upon the tombstone, the letters read as GAL were deciphered incorrectly. They were originally either QAL or CAL: and there had been engraved to the left, either the single letter E; making it EQ AL: EQVES ALAE SARMATARVM; or two letters D and E, making it DEC AL. DECVRIO ALAE SARMATARVM. In the former case, coupled with SARMATA, the inscription would mean: Soldier of Polish Cavalry;" in the latter case: "Sergeant of Polish Cavalry."

This stone has been lost.

On the 8th of April, 1876, another similar tombstone was taken by the late Mr. P. Wearden out of the bed of the Ribble, about two hundred yards above the site of the camp, and on the opposite bank, out of which it had been apparently washed by a flood. It bore no inscription. It is now in the Blackburn Museum.<sup>1</sup>

It is one of a well-known class, and represents a horse-soldier (probably in this case a Polish lancer) spearing a fallen foe.

Though somewhat rude and out of proportion, the sculpture is not without spirit. The horse is too small for its rider, and the head of the latter too large for his body. The saddle and bridle are well defined, as are also the reins and other trappings. The spear is held in one hand and the rider wears a short tunic, and a cloak fastened over the breast by a circular clasp. On his left arm is a shield, apparently of oval shape, and a short heavy sword or dagger is hung at his right side. He is bare-headed, his hair in thick bushy curls, recalling to mind the historian Gibbon's account of the race and their unkempt locks. The military strength of the Sarmatian nation was composed of cavalry, and the custom of their warriors was to lead in their hand one or two spare horses. Thus they could advance or retreat the more rapidly.

They wore a sort of cuirass, which was capable of resisting a sword or javelin; though it was formed only of horse's hoofs, cut into thin and polished slices, carefully laid over each other after the manner of scales or feathers, and strongly sewed upon an under-garment of coarse linen. Their horses wore similar

<sup>1</sup> I am able to reproduce an engraving of this tombstone, through the

kindness of Mr. W. A. Abram.





ROMAN SEPULCHRAL SLAB FOUND NEAR  
RIBCHESTER [1876].



armour. On the celebrated column of Trajan, at Rome, the Sarmatian cavalry are thus depicted; and it is curious that this armour does not appear on the Ribchester sculptures, one of which (the lost one) certainly represents a soldier of this corps.

What a sight it would be now to see a regiment of horse-soldiers clad in such mail parading in these streets! For hundreds of years it was an every day occurrence.

Several tombstones of a similar kind have been found at Kirby Thore, a station on the road from Ribchester to the Great Wall, one at Chester, and in 1881 a very fine one at Hexham, on the line of that mighty fortification. They are, however, for the most part inscribed.

The only other Roman tombstone recorded as found here is of a different type. The inscription is given by an anonymous writer, whose manuscript has been preserved, and who was probably Thomas Braithwaite, of Lancaster, already mentioned. HIS TERRIS TEGITVR AEL. MATRONA QVOND VIX. AN. XXVIII. M. II. D. VIII. ET. M. IVL. MAXIMVS. FIL. VIX. AN. VI. M. III. D. XX. ET. CAMPANIA. DVBITATA MATER VIX. AN. L. IVL. MAXIMVS S. C. ALAE SAR. CONIVX CONIVGI INCOMPARABILI ET FILIO PATRI PIENTISSIMO ET SOCAERE TENA CISSIME MEMORIA P. It signifies: In this earth is held that which was at one time *Ælia Matrona*. She lived twenty-eight years, two months, and eight days; and Marcus Julius Maximus, her son, he lived six years, three months, and twenty days; and Campania Dubitata, her mother, she lived fifty years. Julius Maximus, a *singularis consularis*<sup>1</sup> of the Polish Cavalry, the husband to an incomparable wife, and to a son most dutiful to his father, and to a mother-in-law of very dear memory has placed this."

In the spring of 1882, a stone, probably sepulchral, which has borne an inscription, now undecipherable, was found in the bed of the Ribble, about four hundred yards above the camp, by the late Mr. Geddes, Curator of the Blackburn Museum. The discovery of two tombstones in the same direction makes it possible that the cemetery of the station was situated towards the east,

<sup>1</sup> Officer of rank.

and may have been in great part swept away by the river. Another stone, called by Dr. Whitaker "sepulchral," was found in digging a grave in the churchyard, and therefore within the camp. It is still in existence, but in a very worn and dilapidated condition. It is built up in the wall over the back door at Standen Hall, near Clitheroe. It is sixteen inches and a half in height, and represents a Roman soldier carrying in his right hand a military standard. The left arm, which, it is said, bore something resembling a club, is now broken off. The figure appears to be very rudely executed. The stone is uninscribed. It was in all probability not sepulchral.

A noted antiquary, named Dodsworth, in a letter to a kindred spirit, Sir R. Cotton, says that he saw here "a little table of free-stone, not half a yard square, with the portraiture of three armed men cut therein, but no inscription at all thereon."

The same writer says, in a letter addressed to the same person, dated 26 February, 1622, that he had found a piece of a round pillar at Ribchester. It was half a yard wide, and "sculpt on one side with letters." EN(DN) IMP . CAES G MES . IOQ . DEC . IO . TRN. These signified: "To our lord the Emperor Cæsar Gaius Messius Quintus Decius Trajanus." They referred to the Emperor Decius, who reigned A.D. 249-251. It was a mile-stone. We know the time it was set up. A mile-stone of the same emperor has been found at Lancaster.

Another antiquary, Dr. Leigh, says that he saw a pillar, about seventeen inches in diameter, with letters upon it, but those in a great measure erased, and not at all legible." It may be inferred from what follows in his work that it was found several yards under ground, and that it is the one above referred to.

Again, in an old book<sup>1</sup> is engraved and inscribed a pillar seventeen inches in diameter, supposed by Dr. Hübner to be identical with the one described by Dodsworth, "the form of which looks somewhat like a milliary pillar. It was lying in a garden at the west end of the town, and near the river. So much of the inscription is quite effaced, as makes it hard to guess at the meaning of the whole." According to what was deciphered by the author just quoted (Horsley), the inscription, IMP .

<sup>1</sup> *Britannia Romana, or Roman Britain.*



CAES . MA . . . . . CO P MAX TI . . . .  
 . . . . . , . . . . . OM . . . I  
 CIGI . . . . SEIFE, would signify: "To the Emperor  
 Cæsar Marcus Aurelius, Consul, Chief Priest, of Tribunitian  
 Authority." Space for several lines of writing existed between  
 these first three and the last three given by Horsley in his  
 engraving of the pillar; but the lines have been wholly defaced.  
 Some letters of the last three lines are given, but no sense can be  
 made of them; and this is the more unfortunate, as they originally  
 noted the distance of Ribchester from some other important place.  
 Or it is possible, judging from certain of the letters recorded, it  
 would give the distance from Portus Setantiorum, and decide  
 what was the locality so named.

Two important inscribed stones found here are designated as  
 "walling stones." The first known of these was in the year 1773  
 in the wall of a small house near the church. It is now preserved  
 at St. John's College, Cambridge. The dimensions of the stone  
 are two feet four inches long, ten inches high. On the front are  
 engraved Latin letters, signifying "The twentieth Legion, Valeria,  
 the Victorious made this." On the right side is a figure of a wild  
 boar, which was the badge of the twentieth legion, and occurs on  
 many sculptures and inscriptions left by it.

The other stone, also preserved at St. John's College, as  
 bequeathed by Dr. Whitaker, is nine and a half inches high, and  
 eleven and three-quarters inches broad, composed of a fine red  
 sandstone. On it are words and letter, COH. X. > TITIANA  
 O. P. XXVII., which signify: "The century" (or company of  
 one hundred men) (called) Titiana of the tenth cohort built  
 twenty seven feet. Titianus was the centurion's name. And his  
 company bore his name, just as a company in one of our regiments  
 is styled, for example, Captain Smith's, from the name of its head  
 officer. Likewise our regiments have their badges, taken from  
 animals. For instance, the former Fourth Regiment of the line  
 had as such the Lion of England, the former Fifth had St.  
 George and the Dragon, and the Sixth an Antelope. The Wild  
 Boar was a favourite one, as it should appear from its being  
 the device of two out of the four legions that conquered Britain.

It would be most interesting to give some details of the history



of the Twentieth Legion, who built Ribchester, but exigencies of space forbid; we must refer the reader to the well-known works on the subject.

In matter of artistic work or ornament, the most interesting discovery ever made here was due to a boy aged thirteen years. His name was Walton. He was son of Joseph Walton, a labourer, and his discovery was made in the summer of 1796. He was at play "in a hollow that had been made in the waste land, at the side of the road leading to the church, and near the bend of the river," within the area of the temple already noticed as having been discovered in excavations made by Dr. Whitaker. The boy, when in this hollow, "rubbed accidentally," such is the expression, upon a number of articles of metal, at a depth of nine feet from the surface of the ground. They lay in a heap of red sand that seemed to be placed with them to keep them dry, and so preserve them from rust. It did not effect this purpose altogether, but it most likely kept them from entire destruction. They were bought by Mr. Charles Townley, and are now preserved in the British Museum.

First, we would mention what might be termed, in homely language, a "saucepan"<sup>1</sup> of bronze, of elegant shape, with its rim ornamented with perpendicular lines. It is well preserved. The bowl is five and a half inches in diameter.

Second: A similar saucepan, but considerably larger, though by no means in so good a state of preservation. Dr. Whitaker restored its form from the fragments. The bowl was seven and a half inches in diameter.

Third: The rim and handle of another bronze saucepan, of which the bowl must have been six inches in diameter. It had, however, totally decayed.

Fourth: The remains of a bronze vase, being the bottom and parts of the sides. It appears to have been about ten inches in diameter and fifteen in height, was highly finished, the polish still remaining in the inside, and the metal has a hue of silver, similar to that of which the ancient mirrors were made.

Fifth: A rather rude bronze bust of Minerva, with the

<sup>1</sup> In Latin, *patella*.





ROMAN BRONZE HELMET.

Gorgon's head upon her breast, fastened to a circular disc, three and a quarter inches in diameter.

Sixth: Portions of a bronze basin, which when entire was twelve inches in diameter, and three inches deep.

Seventh: A bronze colander, of very elaborate design, six inches in diameter, and three and a half inches deep. It is very well preserved, but two others, exactly similar, have to a great extent mouldered away, leaving only fragments.

There were found also four circular plates of bronze, four inches in diameter, with a moulding at the border slightly hollowed; three similar plates, only one and a half inches in diameter, with the addition of a hinge and remains of a tongue, from which it was thought they might be a sort of *fibulæ* (brooches); four thin circular flat plates, four inches in diameter; a fragment, composed of a circular plate, with a border, nearly four inches in diameter, to which had been attached, by hinges in opposite directions, four circular buckles, nearly of the before-mentioned dimension, one of which, only, remains. The whole appears to have been enriched with carved work and gilt."

Also, "two pieces of ornament, seemingly parts of the stem of a candelabrum, filled with lead."

All the above were of bronze; but there was also found a mortar (hereafter to be noticed); the tusk of a boar, three inches and three-quarters in length; a piece of leather, with perforations in regular lines, as if made by nails; and a piece of wood, ten inches long with a mortice.

The most valuable article found was a bronze helmet (see illustration); a very elaborate and beautiful work of art, striking the beholder with surprise and admiration. It consists of two parts: the face, which resembles a mask or visor; and the rear portion for covering the skull. These parts fit each other exactly, and were fastened by rings and studs, some of which still remain. The mask imitates precisely the human features, which are of a remarkably effeminate type. Mr. Townley, the purchaser of it from Joseph Walton, gives the following description of it. "The superior workmanship of the mask to that of the head-piece is remarkable." (He thinks the mask was made some ages before the head-piece.) "It, the mask, measures ten inches and

a half from its junction with the skull-piece at the top of the forehead to its bottom under the chin. A row of small detached locks of hair surrounds the forehead a little above the eyes, reaching to the ears, which are well delineated. Upon these locks of hair rests the bottom of a diadem, which, at the centre in the front, is two inches and a quarter in height, diminishing at the extremities to one inch and an eighth; and it is divided horizontally into two parts, bearing the proportionate heights just mentioned. The lower projects before the higher, and represents a bastion wall, separated into seven divisions by projecting turrets, with pyramidal tops exceeding a little the height of the wall. Three apertures for missile weapons of defence are marked in each of the turrets. Two arched doors appear in the middle division of this wall; and one arched door in each of the extreme divisions. The upper part of the diadem, which recedes a little, so as to clear the top of the wall and of the turrets, was ornamented with seven embossed figures placed under the seven arches, the abutments of which are heads of genii. The central arch and the figure that was within it are destroyed; but the other six arches are filled with a repetition of the following three groups: A Venus, sitting upon a marine monster; before her a draped figure with wings, bearing a wreath and a palm branch, and behind her a triton, whose lower parts terminate in tails of fish. Two serpents are represented on each side of the face, near the ears; whence the bodies of these reptiles surround each cheek and are joined under the chin. From the general form of this diadem being usually appropriated to female deities, and the circumstances of the lower division being composed of a wall and turrets, in the same manner as the heads of Isis, Cybele, and the Ephesian Diana are decorated, added to the effeminacy and delicacy of the features of the mask, we may conclude that it alludes to those goddesses: but the manner in which the face is accompanied by serpents, strongly indicates that it also comprises the character of Medusa. The union of various characters recalls the pantheic representations of the goddess Isis, who, according to certain ancient authors, comprehends all the female deities; these deities being only personifications of the various powers and qualities attributed to Isis.<sup>1</sup> When the accompaniments of this mask are attentively

<sup>1</sup> This goddess was a fashionable object of devotion in Hadrian's time.



considered, I am persuaded they will be found to represent this goddess in her generating, preserving, and destroying capacities; which primitively constituted her universal dominion, and characterised her as the *Dea Triformis*”—the triple formed Goddess.

The skull part of the helmet is ornamented with six horse-soldiers, and eleven on foot, all armed and in fighting attitudes.

Dr. Whitaker, in a letter to Mr. Townley, states that he saw the whole of these remains in the summer of 1796 (soon after their discovery), with the addition of a sphinx, of bronze, which from the remains of solder on the lower side, and also from its curvature, appeared to have been attached to some convex surface, probably to the top of the helmet.” He then describes the loss of this sphinx by the children of Laurence Walton (a brother of Joseph Walton), to whom it had been given to play with. The suggestion that the sphinx belonged to the top of the helmet is not at all improbable. As it is evident that the helmet, from its delicate and fragile nature, could not have been made for actual warfare, the question arises, for what was it used? We are yet in the dark upon this subject; though the most probable supposition is that it was intended to be used in processions. Very few such elaborately embossed helmets have been found within the limits of the Roman Empire. In 1878, there was published in Vienna, a work, entitled: “*Antique Show-helmets and Sepulchral Masks* :” in which all the known examples of ancient masks in the museums of Europe are embraced; amongst them (plates Nos. 4, 5, and 6) appears the Ribchester example. Here is something to be proud of: of a specimen, holding such a place among the remains of the Great Empire.

Other valuable relics found have been the following: A finger, of about life size, of a copper or bronze statue: a ruby, like that of a signet ring, with a figure supposed to represent the god Mars: a ring found near the river, of gold, with a cornelian stone, on which were engraven a bird, and these words, *AVE . MEA . VITA*, signifying: “Hail, my life:” believed to be a present by a lover to his mistress, the bird being a raven. The poet, Horace, invoked this bird in order to have a favourable augury in behalf of his beloved Galatea.

This ring is still preserved in a family, descended from Dr. Whitaker. The stone is hexagonal; each end division containing an A, and the four larger divisions, each two letters.<sup>1</sup> No Roman ring exactly like it has been yet met with.

A small gold cup, with handles, is said to have been found at the back of the "White Bull." It is not known what became of it.

"Tradition also records a singular discovery, viz., the skull of an ox, covered with some remains of leather, and studded with gold. It is very possible that such a preparation might have been used for some sacrificial purpose."

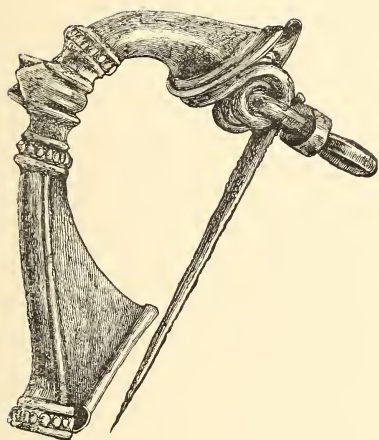
Along with the altar discovered in 1833 were found a small brooch and ring of brass, a circular pendant, apparently inscribed with some characters now illegible, and three coins. Of these the ring, a plain bronze one, is preserved along with the altar at Sharples Hall.

A handsome bronze fibula (or brooch), well preserved, was found in March, 1834, on the opposite side of the river, at Harwood Fold, Clayton-le-Dale. It was some years ago in the possession of the late John Eccles, Esq., of Leyland. It appears to have been mislaid.

A massive gold brooch (a drawing of which I am enabled to give in this work, through the courtesy of the late Mr. Geddes), now in the Blackburn Museum, was found in 1884, just outside the old gateway already described, in excavating for a sewer, at a depth of about eight feet. Its weight is 373 grains, or a little more than the weight of three sovereigns. It is of the harp-shaped type, measures two inches in length by one inch across the bow. The centre and one end have ornamental projections with beaded work. The part forming the pin is perfect, as is also a strong ring for attachment by a cord. According to the expression of an eminent antiquary, it is "magnificent." Only three of gold were known before to have been found. This makes the fourth in that precious metal; bronze articles of the same shape being much more common.

A few years since the churchyard was considerably extended to the westward, and, no doubt, as the new portion becomes utilised,

<sup>2</sup> *Roman Lancashire*, 154-5.



ROMAN GOLD BROOCH FOUND AT  
RIBCHESTER [1887].



further relics will be brought to light, the Roman level being invariably come upon, when digging new graves, at a depth of about three feet and a half, marked by a stratum of burnt wood, and fragments of pottery. In digging a new grave, in 1874, the sexton found, in the layer of burnt wood, a very perfect Roman steelyard, now in the possession of the Marquis de Rothwell.

The lever (which is graduated, and marked with numerals), the hooks, and chains, are of bronze or Corinthian brass, but the weights are of lead. It has evidently been used for weighing only very small articles. The length of the beam is six inches and seven-eighths. Another object recently found in the churchyard is what may have been either a stylus or a bodkin. It appears to be of copper or bronze, with a thin coating of gold, and is four inches in length, is round all the way to the point, with the exception of the head, which is flat, with a slit, as if for the insertion of a tape. It was preserved at the Rectory.

As at most Roman stations, a number of querns or hand-mills for grinding corn have at various times been found. A very fine one is preserved at Tabley Old Hall in Cheshire. It is about fifteen inches in diameter.

A mortar, which was found with the helmet in 1796, is the most perfect of the kind found in Lancashire. It is complete, with the exception of a slight breakage near the spout. It bears a stamp<sup>1</sup> which tells that it came out of the workshop of a man named Boriedus. Two portions of vessels of "white earth," discovered by Dr. Whitaker in 1813, bore on their curved edges AL BINVS and VAL IX. They were no doubt mortars.

Two handles of amphoræ (large jars), marked C.I.S., were preserved at the Rectory a few years ago. The same stamp has been found at Wilderspool in Cheshire, which was a great place for manufacturing pottery in Roman times. Quantities of fragments of Samian ware have been found, but few with the makers' names. A fragment discovered in 1815 bore the mark MAXIMI, and a fragment found in 1888, now in the Preston Museum, bore VARTN. In excavations made in 1850, we are told, in the angle between the river and the junction of the Cowley brook, a large quantity of Roman pottery was found, consisting of numerous

<sup>1</sup> BORIEDI OFFICINA



fragments of Samian ware, chiefly of dishes, many marked with the potter's name; one flagon with both handles perfect, and others broken; fragments of glass and common pottery, nails, bones of animals, with which were tusks of boars and swine.

The top of a great two-handled jar is at the Holme, near Burnley. It is eighteen inches in height and the diameter of the mouth is six inches.

A fragment of a very coarse whitish-yellow vessel, now preserved at the Rectory, bears the word FECIT (MADE); and a similar fragment has an illegible potter's name.

In course of the excavations made in 1888 the central portion of a small earthen vase was met with. It had lost its rim and base. The body of the vessel, three inches and a half high, and two inches five-eighths in diameter, is marked with screw-like indentations within and without. It is of rude workmanship. At the same time two instruments for cutting leather, and a shoe-sole studded with nails, of very modern aspect, were found. All these are deposited in the Preston Museum.

All the early writers about Ribchester—Leland in 1540, Camden in 1582 and in 1603, Dr. Leigh in 1699, Stukeley in 1725, and Horsley in 1732—speak of the large number of coins found, whilst Dr. Whitaker says:—"Besides inscriptions, the smaller antiquities discovered here are innumerable. The coins, of which many of the large brass kind are found, are generally so much corroded as to be scarcely legible. Denarii of the Upper Empire are not uncommon."

Of the coins now traceable, or of which descriptions have been preserved, Mr. Thompson Watkin has given the following list:—

NERO.	Gold.	Reverse. IVP PITER CUSTOS. (JUPITER, THE GUARDIAN). The god Jupiter seated left, holding a thunderbolt and sceptre.
VITELLIUS.	Silver.	Reverse obliterated.
VESPASIAN.	First Brass.	Mars standing with spear in right hand, a trophy in left. S.C. By decree of the Senate.
VESPASIAN.	First Brass.	S.P.Q.R. OB CIVES SERVATOS within a wreath. (The Senate and People of Rome for Citizens preserved.)
VESPASIAN.	Silver.	Reverse obliterated.
TITUS.	Silver.	CONCORDIA (Concord), a female figure.
TITUS.	Silver.	Reverse obliterated.

DOMITIAN.	First Brass.	Seen by Dr. Stukeley. Reverse not given.
TRAJAN.	Gold.	CON.V.P.P.S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI. In the exergue ALIM. ITAL. The letters signify : The Senate and People of Rome to a most excellent Prince, Consul for the fifth time. Father of his country." "The Feeding of Italy." The Emperor is figured wearing the toga (Roman civilian dress), distributing food to two infants.
TRAJAN.	Silver.	P.M. T.R.P. COS. II. PP. (Chief Priest ; of Tribunitian authority ; Consul for the second time ; Father of his Country.) Female figure seated ; in right hand a censer, in left a cornucopia.
HADRIAN.	Debased Silver.	ROMVLO CONDITOR. To Romulus the Founder. (Romulus, with head uncovered, marching to right, carrying a spear and a trophy.)
FAUSTINA.	Gold.	Obverse, DIVA FAUSTINA. The goddess Faustina. Reverse, AETERNITAS. (Eternity, represented by a figure standing to left, holding globe and sceptre.
MARCUS AURELIUS.	Second Brass.	ABVNDANTIA AVG. The Plenty of Augustus. A figure of Plenty standing holding cornucopia (horn of abundance).
SEVERUS.	Silver.	Reverse obliterated.
VALERIANUS.	Second Brass.	FELICITAS AVG. The Happiness of Augustus.
CRISPUS.	Third Brass.	VOT. X. (With ten good wishes) within a wreath, around it CAESARVM NOSTRORUM. Of our Cæsars.
VALENS.	Silver.	URBS ROMA. The City of Rome. Rome represented by a seated female figure. In the exergue T.R.P.S. Money struck at Trèves.

Several illegible coins, first, second, and third brass, from Ribchester, are in the possession of the Marquis de Rothwell.

A first brass of Domitian in tolerably good preservation, found in 1886, was presented by the Rev. F. J. Dickson, Rector of Ribchester, to the Preston Museum. We give both sides of this and the following coin, the reverse only of the previous pieces being recorded. Obverse, IMP. CAES. DOMIT. AVG. CONS. XI. CENS. PERP. P.P. The Emperor Cæsar Domitian Augustus, Consul eleven times ; Perpetual Censor ; Father of his Country. The head of Domitian, right. Border of dots. Reverse, S.C. By Decree of the Senate. A figure, left, holding ivory staff in right hand ; in left, a spear resting on the ground ; spurning with right foot a captive seated on the ground. Border of dots.

Coin of Nerva, already mentioned as found in 1888. Obverse, IMP. NERVA CAES. AVG. GERM. P.M. TR.P. II. The Emperor Nerva

Cæsar Augustus, Germanicus ; Chief Priest ; of Tribunitian Authority twice. Head of Nerva, radiate, right. Reverse, IMP. II. COS, IIII. P.P. S.C. Emperor twice, Consul four times ; Father of his Country ; by Decree of the Senate. A figure standing ; in right hand, a ploughshare, in left a cornucopia.

Four other coins, like the last described of third brass, but illegible, were obtained in the recent excavations.

### POSTSCRIPT.

It is only right to add that the excavations made in 1888 and last year were carried out mainly through the instrumentality of the writer of the above chapter. Mr. Shortt has, however, with his usual modesty, omitted to mention this important fact. I only wish the leading landowners in the district would rise to a sense of the importance of this matter, and organise (as they easily could) excavations on a much larger scale than what has been possible in the last two years. It is a shame that in *Ribchester itself* there should scarcely be a Roman *curio* of any value.

The following "Chronology" and "List of Roman Objects Found at Ribchester," has been compiled by the Rev. Jonathan Shortt, B.A. :—

#### CHRONOLOGY OF ROMAN RIBCHESTER.

A.D. 124.	Founding of the Chester.
" "	Walling Stone of the Twentieth Legion.
" "	" Stone of Titian's Regiment.
" 161-162.	Building of Forum by Sixth Legion.
" 161-180.	Mile-stone of Marcus Aurelius.
" 184.	Burning of the Chester by Caledonians.
" 211-212.	Altar set up in honour of Caracalla.
" 211-235.	Restoration of Temple.
" 238-244.	Altar to Apollo Maponus by Sixth Legion.
" 249-251.	Mile-stones set up by Emperor DECIUS.
" 298-305.	Altar to god Mars and Victory.
" 396.	Departure of the Twentieth Legion.
" 410-416.	Withdrawal of Roman troops from Britain.

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#### RELAPSE OF RIBCHESTER UNDER CELTIC DOMINION.

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#### LIST OF PRINCIPAL OBJECTS RECORDED AS FOUND.

Remains of three Temples ; the largest found July, 1811.

Inscription on a probable Forum, seen 1730.

Altar to Apollo Maponus ; dug up in 1578.

" to Goddess Mothers, seen April, 1580.

" to Mars Pacifer, seen 1603.

" with name ; "PATERNIUS SATURNINUS," seen 1603.

" to god Mars and Victory, seen 1604.

- Altar "With his family," inscribed, seen 1818.  
 „ uninscribed, seen 1833.  
 „ in honour of Caracalla, found 1833.  
 „ preserved at the Rectory, uninscribed, 1888.  
 Tombstone of Sarmatian soldier, seen 1607.  
 „ Do. uninscribed, in Blackburn Museum, found 8 April, 1876.  
 „ Julius Maximus, seen 1607.  
 Slab with figure of Roman soldier, seen 1773.  
 „ „ Hercules (?)  
 „ „ Three armed men (?)  
 „ „ Shears of Fate (?)  
 Hypocaust, discovered February, 1837.  
 Seven Bronze utensils, found 1796.  
 Bronze helmet, with mask, found 1796.  
 Mile-stone of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, seen 1612.  
 „ „ „ Decius, seen 1612.  
 Finger of a bronze statue, 1699.  
 Gold ring with cornelian, 1699.  
 Gold cup (?)  
 Skull of ox, covered with leather and studded with gold (?)  
 Brooch, pendant and ring of brass, found 1833.  
 „ of bronze, found March, 1834.  
 Quern.  
 Steel-yard, 1874.  
 Stylus or bodkin, (?)  
 Nineteen coins, decipherable, found at various times.  
 Many coins, quite defaced.  
 Handles of jars, with makers' ciphers.  
 Mortar, the most perfect found in Lancashire.

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Mgr. R. Gradwell has sent me the following derivation of Bremetonacum. "It is evidently a British or Celtic word. The last two syllables may be omitted in considering the meaning of the words as 'ac' merely denotes a district, and 'um' is a Latin termination. There remains Bremeton, 'Bry' or 'Bryn' stands for a hill; but the 'Meton' is not so clear. In the Breton tongue, it is used as a term for a fox, as we use Reynard. Now this would give us a reasonable explanation, viz.: 'Fox Hill,' for the country was wild and desolate enough, and the wild beasts could roam at their will." As will be seen in chap. ii., frequent payments occur for fox heads so late as the seventeenth century.

## PART II.

## CHAPTER I.

## General History.



THE Parish of Ribchester was formerly included in the Hundred of Amounderness, and comprised the townships of Alston, Dilworth, Dutton, Hothersall, and Ribchester; but in "modern times" it became a portion of the Blackburn Hundred; and in 1868 the two former townships were made into the Ecclesiastical District of Longridge. The History of Ribchester down to the abandonment of Britain by the Romans, has been fully dealt with. Of its history from that time to the fourteenth century little is known. In 1332 Ribchester was harassed and burnt down by the Scots.<sup>1</sup> All we know is more or less conjectural. In the *Domesday Survey* we are told that Earl Tosti had sixteen villages in Amounderness dependent upon Preston, among which were: "Actun (Alston) one carucate; Ribelcastre (Ribchester) two carucates." In this district there were three churches, at St. Michael's, Preston, and Kirkham; and the inhabitants were "few." The early ways of spelling the names of the townships in the parish are here given in tabular form. (See also appendix.)

Modern Name.	Domesday Name.	Name <i>Temp.</i> Ed. III.	Name <i>Temp.</i> Hen. VIII.	Probable Derivation and Meaning <sup>2</sup>
Ribchester	<i>Ribelcastre</i>	Ribelcestre	Rybchester	"The castra (camp) on the Ribble."
Hothersall	Hadreshall (1200)	Hudersall	Veerese	"The house of?"
Dutton	Dutton (1200)	Dutton	Dutton	"The town of the Duttons."
Dilworth	Dylleword (1200)	Dilleworth	Dilworth	"The swampy settlement"
Alston	<i>Actun</i>	Alsden	Howston	"Athe's-town."

<sup>1</sup>Inq. Non.

<sup>2</sup>These derivations are given with the utmost diffidence—being deduced from Taylor, Blackie, Atkinson and

other eminent philologists. The science of philology is dark and mysterious to the uninitiated.



The first Lords of Ribchester were the De Lacyes, the Duttons, the Cliderhows, the Claytons, the Priors of St. John of Jerusalem, and the Motons. In 42 Hen. III (1257-8) the Manor of Ribchester, says Baines, was held by Edmund de Lacye.<sup>1</sup>

In 20, Edw. I (1292) Richard de Dutton, son of William de Dutton, released and quitclaimed to Hugh de Cliderhow and his heirs, all the right which he had by gift of his uncle in the township of Dutton.<sup>2</sup> Also, about the same time, Richard de Dutton quitclaimed to his uncle Richard all his lands in Dutton which he had from his father. The deed was witnessed by (among others) "Henry de Kighley, then seneschal, William de Mutton, then constable of Cliderhowe. Adam de Osbaldeston, Robert Muttun, and Richard de Boulton."<sup>3</sup>

Adam, his son, granted his lands in "Hayhirst" in the township of Dutton to William de Dutton, in a deed without date.<sup>4</sup>

This Adam de Dutton was probably brother to Richard de Dutton; as in a deed, also without date, we find him giving and granting to "John, son of Elias, the miller of Dutton, a certain part of my land lying within these boundaries: beginning at the land of Thomas son of Lambert, following the said land to the land of Jordan the clergyman, following the land of the said Jordan to the exit of Hayhirste, following the said exit to the land formerly of Richard of the Ulnesbothes, and following the said land to the said land of Thomas son of Lambert; for a grain of pepper, to be paid yearly. Witnessed by Hugh de Cliderhowe, Thomas, son of Richard de Ulnesbothes, Jordan, his son, clergyman, Henry de Clayton, etc."<sup>5</sup>

Robert de Dutton gave his brother Adam his lands in Dutton, between the high way of Dutton and the thread of the water of Dodilbroc, and between the land of Hugh de Cliderhowe and Henry de Melner, with buildings and orchard, paying annually to the Chief Lord, Henry de Clayton, four silver pennies at the feast of St. Ægidius.<sup>6</sup>

Adam de Dutton, son of Richard, gave his brother Richard de Dutton all his land "in the township of Dutton between the land

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. of Lanc.*, (1st edit.) iii., 342.

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, vol. D.D., 1146.

<sup>3</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D., 1147.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, D.D., 1148.

<sup>5</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D., 1136.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, D.D., 1133.

of Robert son of William de Dutton and the dyke which goes nearest to Langlarche and between the exit and the end of Dodilbroc" on payment yearly of four silver pennies. Witnesses: Richard de Bolton, Robert his son, Robt. son of Elias de Ribbিলchester, Thomas de Dodil, *et aliis*.<sup>1</sup>

Whitaker quotes from the *Harl. MSS.* several charters (without date) relating to Richard son of Ughtred de Dutton. The following (also without date) from the *Towneley MSS.*, apparently relates to another son, Ralph de Dutton, who granted to Ralph son of Adam de Blackburne all his land in "the territory" of Dutton within certain boundaries. "Ernysclogh"; the lands of Henry de Curdeelyne and Adam the Forman; "Rakendesclough;" "Houslone," and the "hedges of John de Burnyl" are the boundaries. Witnesses (among others) Richard de Alston, Walter de Bayley, and Richard de Balderston.<sup>2</sup>

William de Dutton, son of Richard, gave his lands in "Hayhirste in Dutton" to Hugh de Clyderhowe upon payment of six silver pennies.<sup>3</sup> [In 10 Edw. II. (1317), Adam, son of Hugo de Cliderhow, held these lands.]

He also granted "to Alexander son of Ralph the Tyneke all that land in Hayhirst which Richard de Ennetessil bought of Christiana wife of Robert de Hayrst and of Cimmiala her sister," on payment yearly of two silver shillings. Witnessed by (among others) Adam de Salebury, William son of Sivard, and William Mutun.<sup>4</sup> He also granted to his son Richard de Dutton "all that portion of land which his mother Alice had by way of dowry, within these boundaries, beginning at the land of Lambert, ascending Rodilbroc as far as the Clappandeclogh," thence "as far as the ditch Bothcollot," thence to the issue," etc.; "to be had and held and in multure in his mills of the Ribel, for a yearly payment of two pence." Witnesses, Henry de Clayton, Henry de Cundeclive, John de Birnil, *et aliis*.<sup>5</sup>

No dates are appended to the above deeds, but they would be drawn up between 1270 and 1310.

In a deed, without date, Amabilia, formerly wife of Wm. de Porte, quitclaimed to Richard de Alston lands in Alston. Wit-

<sup>1</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, DD., 1142

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, DD., 1140

<sup>3</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, DD., 1139

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, DD., 1134.

<sup>5</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, DD., 1136.

nesses: William, son of William, parson de Alston, William de Brockhole, Robert de Hodersale, clericus, etc.<sup>1</sup>

The Claytons were the Lords of Ribchester about the end of the fourteenth century. Whitaker states that "A William de Dutton grants his land in Dutton to Henry de Clayton," and that "a Ralph de Clayton styles himself Dns. de Dutton 14 Edw. III. (1340-1)."<sup>2</sup>

For only a few years were the Claytons Lords of Ribchester, as in 27 Edw. III. (1353-4) we find Robert Moton described as such in a deed, in which "Alice, daughter of Robert Francys, gave and confirmed to John de Lee, junior," a certain house in Ribchester, which formerly Roger the chaplain held, as it lies between the land of Symon de Preston and the land of Robert Motton, lord of Ribchester." Witnesses (among others), Nicholas Motton and Richard de Townley.<sup>3</sup> In 1355 Robert Moton gave William of Whalley his manor of Ribchester.<sup>4</sup> In 1361 William Moton, chaplain, along with John de Osbaldeston, chaplain, received the grant of the manors of Salesbury and Clayton, and all the lands and tenements, rents, returns, and services which Robert de Cliderowe had in Preston, Ribblecastr', Dutton, Dynkeley, Wilpshir', Oswaldestwyssil, Cliderowe, and Litelpenhulton, along with a water mill near Ribbilcastr', with the homages and services of all the free tenants of his in the aforesaid manors and townships. Witnesses, Adam de Hoghton, Richard de Shireburne, William de Clifton, Knights; John de Alvetham, Gilbert de Legh, Henry de Clayton de Dutton, *et aliis*.<sup>5</sup> But the Claytons must have regained possession of their manors (or of a portion of them), as Mr. Abram states that "Henry de Clayton held manorial estate in Dutton in 1373."<sup>6</sup> And in 1364 "John, son of John, son of Gilbert de Clayton, quitclaimed to John Osbaldeston and William Moton" all the right he had in "those two tofts with the houses built thereon in Ribbilcester'." Witnesses: Robert, son of Robert de Cliderowe, Henry Clayton de Dutton, Robert, son of Robert Moton, Thomas Bannastr' de Osbaldeston, *et aliis*.<sup>7</sup>

In 39 Edw. III. (1366) Richard, son of William of Schypinclogh,

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., D.D.

<sup>2</sup> Whit. Whalley [ivth edit.] ii. 467-8.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Hist. of Blackburn, 557.

<sup>7</sup> Towneley MSS.

gave to John de Osbaldeston and William Moton, chaplains, all his lands which he had "after the decease of William," his "father, in the town of Ribblecestr", to be held of the chief lords." Witnesses: Richard de Townley, at that time seneschal of the wapentake of Cliderow, *et aliis*.<sup>1</sup>

Then, in 1372, William, son of Richard de Dodehull, quitclaimed to William Moton, chaplain, all the right he had in the lands which John Osbaldeston and the same William Moton, chaplains, had by his gift in the town of Ribbilstchester.<sup>2</sup> And in 1327 Henry Moton, son of William Moton, quitclaimed to the Abbey of Whalley his mill in Ribchester.<sup>3</sup> But even previous to this (in 1190-1200), we find Adam de Windell granting to Walter Moton, who had married Amabell, his daughter, lands in Ribblecestre and Dilleworthe. Witnesses: Galfrid, Dean of Whalley; J. de Lasey, constable of Cheshire.<sup>4</sup>

Whitaker states that "in 1373-4 Henry de Clayton grants the manor of Dutton to Richard de Townley. In the Townleys of Townley it continued till it was given to Richard Townley, a younger son, in whose descendants and name it remained until the death of Henry Townley."<sup>5</sup> This statement of the Historian of Whalley is but one of many erroneous ones made by him in his account of Ribchester. We are amazed at such inaccuracy, for Dr. Whitaker had access to the manuscripts from which I am quoting. The Townleys were never Lords of the Manor of Ribchester or Dutton; and in spite of former adverse criticism we can only repeat what we said in the *History of Longridge*<sup>6</sup> as to the carelessness of the Editors of the fourth edition of the *History of Whalley*.

We have quoted Mr. Abram's statement as to Henry de Clayton holding "manorial estate" in Dutton in 1373; but from the following deeds the statement seems doubtful:—

"I, William Moton, chaplain, have given to Richard de Brad-

<sup>1</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>Chart. Whall. Abbey, 635.

<sup>4</sup>*Piccope MSS.*

<sup>5</sup>Whit. *Whalley*, II, 468.

<sup>6</sup>*Hist. of Longridge*, 169-70. We are quite aware that in one or two MSS. the Townleys are described as

holding the "manor" of Dutton. Baines makes the curious statement that Richard de Caldecotes was identical with Richard de Towneley (iii., 388). In the *Towneley MSS.*, vol. D.D. 983, Richard de Caldecotes is expressly called "Capellanus."

lelegh, chaplain, and to Henry and his heirs all the messuages and lands which I had in the towns of Ribbelcester, Dutton, Chepin, and in the hamlet of Baylegh, in the town of Aghton, to be held of the chief lords. These being witnesses: Adam de Hoghton, Robert de Cliderowe, Richard de Townleye, Thomas Bannastr' de Osbaldeston, John de Balegh, and others. Given at Ribbilcester on the Sunday next after the feast of Saint Wilfrid the Bishop, 43 Edw. III. 1370)."<sup>1</sup>

In the same year (1370) Cecilia, relict of Nicholas Moton, and Alicia, her sister, quitclaimed to Richard, son of Thomas Hychecockson, all their right which they had in the lands in Ribchester, which Richard had "by grant of Nicholas Moton," recovery being made through Richard, son of Roger Willyson, by a certain John Franceys.<sup>2</sup>

The Singletons of Chingle Hall, Whittingham, were for many years large landowners in the Parish of Ribchester, being Lords of the Manor of Alston. The following deed (dated 1365) from the *Towneley MSS.* is interesting. "I Margaret de Knoll in my pure widowhood have granted to John son of Rawnlegh all that land with half a messuage, which I had after the decease of Ranulph de Singletone my father, in the high field<sup>3</sup> of Dillworth in the town of Ribchester to be held, etc." Witnesses: Robert de Cliderowe, Robert Moton, *et aliis*.

But in 1312 Richard, son of Adam de Hoghton, gave Richard his son, his manors of Alsdén, Hodershall and Dilworth in Ribchester."

Apparently, then, the Singletons were Lords of these manors from about 1200 to 1300.

Then the Hoghtons became Lords of the Manors of Alston, Dilworth, and Hothersall. In 1358 we find Adam de Hoghton, Knight, gave "to Robert son of John Wilcockson of Ribilchester all his land that he had in the township of Ribblecaster by gift of John son of Henry de Whallay and [which] formerly belonged to the aforesaid John Wilkokson, father of the aforesaid Robert: rent being paid to me and my heirs annually, for the first twenty years of two silver shillings, and afterwards of a rose only.

<sup>1</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> A farm in Dilworth (see map) is still called "The High House."



Witnesses : Robert Cliderowe, Gilbert de Leghe, Richard Nowell, Richard Knoll, Jordan de Kenyon, *et aliis*. Given at Preston.”<sup>1</sup> The Hoghtons became Lords of the Manors of Ribchester and Dutton about the year 1400, in whose family they remained (along with the manors of Alston, Dilworth, and Hothersall,) until the close of the sixteenth century. Dr. Whitaker ignores this important fact. It is very hard to believe that he could make such a terrible omission. The Hoghtons have left indelible traces of their long lordship. The very signs of the leading Inns in the parish of Ribchester speak of the long connection of this historic family with the district. No less than four Inns bear the sign of “the Bull,” and one more, at least, formerly bore the Hoghton bull as its sign. This omission of Dr. Whitaker’s is on a par with his omission of almost all mention of the Rev. George Ogden, who was Vicar of Ribchester for a quarter of a century, and who was, moreover, the most distinguished vicar the parish has had. I write strongly because Dr. Whitaker must have been aware of his omissions. His industry and erudition are, of course, well known ; his opportunities for acquiring information were unequalled. His visits to Ribchester were frequent ; and we suppose he did not fail to closely examine the church books. It is, then, unfortunate that a writer so often quoted should have perpetuated omissions of so serious a character as the ones I have named.<sup>2</sup> The Hoghtons then succeeded the Motons as Lords of the Manor of Ribchester. In 1406, Richard de Hoghton “allowed Richard Ewood, chaplain, to receive from William Moton chaplain full seizing of all the lands in the townships of Dutton, Chipin, Ribbilcester, Gosenargh, Hodersale, and Aghton in Blackburnshire.”<sup>3</sup> These lands had on the 28th January in the same year been “quitclaimed to William Moton and his heirs by Nicholas de Winckly, parson of the Church of Asshton, in the County of Chester, Richard de Twistefeld, Vicar of the Church of

<sup>1</sup> *Hoghton MSS.*

<sup>2</sup> Since I wrote the above I have noticed that Fishwick, the well-known local historian, in the Preface of his recently-published *History of Rochdale*, says he has not “much faith” in the accuracy of either Baines or Whitaker, and that he has “not

accepted any statement of theirs without consulting the original authority for it, the result often being to confirm “his unbelief.” I venture to say that Fishwick’s statement is quite within the mark.

<sup>3</sup> *Hoghton MSS.*

Rochdale, Richard de Ribchester, Richard Seddon, Richard Heron, Richard Mathen, Thomas Anandesley and William Hayhurst, chaplains.”<sup>1</sup> In 1421, “Johanna and Thomas Robinson Johanson held land in Ribchester. Given at Ribbelcester on Wednesday next after the Discovery of the Holy Cross.”<sup>2</sup>

At an Inq. held at Preston 10 Hen. V. (1422), Sir Richard de Hoghton was declared to have held half the manor of Alston.<sup>3</sup> And in 1425 he also held the manor of Chipping, half the manor of Hothersall, and an eighth part; likewise he held half the manor of Dilworth of the heirs of Robert de Dilworth; and a parcel of land in Hothersall called Ulmon Ridding of God and St. John of Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup>

In 1444, “Henry de Hoghton, son and heir of Richard de Hoghton, Knight; Henry de Kighley, Esquire; John de Hoghton, son of Edward Hoghton; and Thomas de Tunstale, chaplain, appointed Rochelou de Werden their lawful attorney to receive on their behalf full seizing in all the lands, etc., which they had by feoffment of Margarete, wife of John Shorte, and Agnes del Hogh, sister of the said Margarete, in the township of Dutton.”<sup>5</sup>

In 50 Ed. III. (1396-7), Adam Hoghton and Thomas Banaster, Knts., gave John de Ravinshagh the water mill of Dilworth at “Le Lum,” on payment yearly of 6s. 8d.

In 1418, at an Inq. taken at Lancaster, it was declared that Will. de Hill was seized of a plot of land called Sprodpulley, which was held of Thurstan de Lyvalx de Ribchester, in socage, etc.; and that on account of the idiocy of the said William the lands were in the King’s hands.<sup>7</sup>

In 1459, “Alicia Halgh, formerly the wife of William Halgh, gave to Alexander Halgh, son of Robert Halgh, and his heirs all that messuage called Shipley Ridding, lying in the township of Ribchester, which formerly belonged to Johanna, wife of Thomas Robinson Jonson.” Witnesses: Henry Townley, Ughtred Hodersall, John Lynuls, Henry Cotome, Oliver Hayhirst.<sup>8</sup>

In the same year (1459) “Alicia Halgh” confirmed to Alexander Halgh lands in Ribchester and Hodersall, which formerly belonged

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, xcv., 146.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, xcix., 12.

<sup>5</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D.

<sup>6</sup> *Piccope MSS.*

<sup>7</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, xcv.

<sup>8</sup> *Hoghton MSS.*

to Thomas Goldisburgh and Emma his wife.<sup>1</sup>

In 1466 Thomas Shorte ratified and confirmed the possession which John Talbot, junior, Esq., had in all the lands which the aforesaid John lately had by feoffment of John Shorte.<sup>2</sup>

In 1467-8 "Henry Hoghton, Esq., and John Hoghton, son of Edward Hoghton, being seized along with Henry Kighley and Thomas Tunstall, chaplain, now defunct, through feoffment of Margarete Shorte and Agnes de Hough, her sister, in all those messuages which the said Margarete and Agnes had in Dutton, remitted and released to John Shorte all their right in these premises." Witnesses: "Richard Banaster, at that time Mayor of Preston; Lawrence Aynesworth, and James Singleton."<sup>3</sup>

In 1473 "Alexander Halgh, late of Ribchester, gave to Robert Preston, of Preston, all his lands lately called Goddisbroke Londes lying in the Hees of Rybchester," and all his lands below a close of Thomas Blackburne.<sup>4</sup>

And two years later (1475) "Thomas Pensay quitclaimed to John Holgate all the right he ever had in Ribchester and Hordirsall which he had by gift of Alexander Halgh."<sup>5</sup>

In the same year (1475) "John Talbot, Esq., son and heir apparent of John Talbot, of Salesbury, lately defunct, quitclaimed to John Halgh all the right he ever had in all the lands within Ribchester and Hodersale, which John Talbot, who lately died, had by gift of his father Robert. Witnesses: Richard Lynalls, gent., Thomas Blackburne, and William Cottome."<sup>6</sup>

In 1483 "Robert Preston remitted to John Halgh his claim on the lands called Goddisbrookes, which he had by gift of Alexander Halgh, son of Robert Halgh, of Ribchester."<sup>7</sup>

The Talbots of Salesbury owned lands in Ribchester for many years.

In 1482 "Sir John Talbot, of Sailebury, granted to Richard Banaster of Alvetham, Nicholas Townley, Laurence Aynesworth, and Roger Talbot, Knts., Eli Crombelholme, and Oliver Hall, chaplains, lands in Ribchester."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Hoghton MSS.* A "mem." is appended to this deed to the effect that the "intayle" is void, because Thomas Goldisburgh had given the said lands to Robert Halgh.

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley MSS., D.D.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Hoghton MSS.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Towneley MSS., D.D.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

In 1495 "Ralph Webster gave and granted to John Talbot, K<sup>nt</sup> all the messuages that descended to him hereditary or otherwise in Ribchester." Richard Lynals and Wm. Johnson, *alias* Wm. Eccleston, were made his lawful attorneys. Witnesses: Rd. Longton, Rd. Shireburne, K<sup>nts.</sup>, Jas. Walton, Mayor of Preston; Thos. Pencap, John Dowe, Ellese Cotom, etc.

In 1506 Sir John Talbot, "son and heir apparent of Sir John Talbot, of Salebury, along with his three brothers, released to John Singleton, of Chingle Hall, K<sup>nt.</sup>, all the lands in Ribchester he had of John Lord or Ranulph Webster. The Talbots continued to hold lands in Ribchester until 1652, when they were sequestered, and sold to Adam Boulton, of Salesbury.

The Hothersalls, of Hothersall Hall, have been connected with Ribchester longer than any other family. In I John (1199) Warine, son of Robert de Hadreshall, held 2 bovates of land in Hothersall. Thomas de Hadreshall died in 1256-7, seized of lands in Hothersall and Alston. In a deed, without date, Adam, son of Gerard de Hodersale, gave Robert, son of Stephen de Hodersale, and Roger, his son, three acres of land in Alston, lying in Whytecker, near the land of Waser de Samlesbury on the west. Witnesses: Thomas de Hodersale, Henry, *clericus* de Preston, Hugo de Hodersall, *et aliis*. Full particulars of this old Ribchester family will be found in chapter xii., along with notices of the Towneleys, Walmsleys, Osbaldestons, and other noted families who long held lands in Ribchester.

The connection of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem with the parish is traced in chapter iii.

In 4 Hen. VII. (1488-9), the King granted the forfeited estate of Sir James Haryngton to "our cousin Thomas, Earl of Derby, lately Lord of Stanley, the most beloved husband of our dearest mother, for all his expenses incurred in our services, without any rent or payment."<sup>2</sup>

In 3 Edw. VI. (1549-50), William Eccleston, of Eccleston, gent., having paid £1,731 18s. 8d. into the Court of Augmentation of the Crown, and "by advisement of our most dear uncle and our counsellor Edward, Duke of Somerset, governor of our Person, and Protector of our Kingdoms," obtained along with Antony

<sup>1</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>2</sup>*Patent Roll*, M. 26.

Layton, gent., a grant of lands in Bailey, Ribchester, and Dutton, which formerly belonged to the "late Chantry in the chapel of Bailey."<sup>1</sup>

In 6 Eliz. (1563-4), in consideration of a sum of £1,107 17s. 1d., Charles Jackson of ffyrbecke, co. York, Esq., and William Mason of Egmonton, co. Notts., gent., had granted to them "a parcel of land called Dutton Lee," containing 12 acres of land; Dutton Common, 20 acres; a rood of land occupied by George Hayrst; half-a-rood of land occupied by James Cowell; a rood of land occupied by John Baylie; a rood of land occupied by Richard Crumbleholme; and a rood of land occupied by Henry Hayrst—all of which "were parcel of the domain or manor of Dutton, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Whalley," and had been "secretly and subtly kept from the Queen and her forefathers."<sup>2</sup>

In 36 Eliz. (1594) says Baines, Sir Richard Shireburne died seized of the Manor of Ribchester.<sup>3</sup> In this family it remained along with the Manor of Dutton until the death of Sir Nicholas Shireburne, the last of the line, in 1717. Along with the other extensive possessions of the family, the Manors of Dutton and Ribchester became the property of the Duchess of Norfolk, the only daughter of Sir Nicholas Shireburne. From the Duchess, who died without issue in 1754, the property passed to Edward Weld, Esq., of Lulworth, grand-nephew of Sir Nicholas, county Dorset. On his death in 1761, his son, Edward Weld, Esq., became Lord of the Manors; being succeeded on his death in 1775, by his only brother Thomas Weld, Esq. He died in 1810, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Weld, Esq., "who after the death of his wife entered the priesthood of the Church of Rome, and in due time became a Cardinal." In 1829, the property was sold to Joseph Fenton, Esquire, of Rochdale, in whose family it has since remained. The present Lord of the Manors is James Fenton, Esquire, of Dutton Manor, Ribchester.

Reverting to the Lordship of the Manor of Alston (in which Dilworth and Hothersall seem to be included) after having been in the Hoghton family for four centuries, it was sold by Sir H. P.

<sup>1</sup>*Ibid.*, M. 45.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, M. 26.

<sup>3</sup>*Hist. of Lanc.*, iii., 382.



Hoghton about 1800 to William Cross, Esquire, of Red Scar, Grimsargh; his grandson, William Cross, Esquire, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, being the present Lord of the Manor, although he does not own much, if any, property in the parish.

In the Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings (1549-50) is a long account of a dispute between John Townley, gent., of Dutton, and Richard Harryson, yeoman, of Stydd, about a piece of land called "Karlynhurst," in Dutton, being "part and parcell" of the lands left to the said John Townley by his father, Richard Townley. It seems Richard Harryson was "by the color of certen dedes, charters, evydences, mynyments, and writinges" in possession of the land in dispute, and refused to give up both the papers and land. John Townley therefore prayed for "letters of prevye sealle," which were duly granted.<sup>1</sup> There are no papers to show how the matter ended.

In the following year (1550-1) Richard Crompton, clothier, of Burye, being lawfully seised of lands and tenements in Ribchester and Hoethersall, complained that deeds and papers, as well as debts, "amounting to a hundrythe poundes at the least," had been unlawfully seized by Thomas Greenhalghe, of Burye, gent. Amongst the goods seized were "dyvers sommes of money in golde and sylver, whereof the most part thereof was in gold angelles, duckettes, Ryalls, crownes, and other golde," amounting to £320. This money had been delivered to Greenhalghe "upon especiall trust and confydens," inasmuch as the said Greenhalghe had married the plaintiff's bastard dowghter." When required to re-deliver the moneys and papers the defendant refused, and so the plaintiff, not desiring to lose "his hole substance that he should have to lyve upon," and having no remedy at common law, prayed for "letters of pryvey seale." In his answer to the Bill of Complaint, Greenhalghe declared that "about five years ago the plaintiff delivered unto him one box containing evidence and deeds relating to lands in Ribchester and Hoethersall, saying, 'Thomas have and take this boxe and writinges for these woll I gyve to thee and thye chyldern.' Accordingly he had since received the rents due for the said lands."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Duc. Pleadings, v. T2.*

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid, iii. 6.*

In 22 Eliz. (1582) a dispute took place as to a right of way over certain lands, "parcell of the inheritance of Henrie Townley of Dutton, gentleman, into a certain more or waste ground called Langridge and Fauney." This right of way the complainant, Robert Seed, of Ribchester, who leased a messuage and tenement from "one Robert Lynolles, gentleman," stated was proved by long usage and by "certain dedes" which had lately come into the possession of Henry Townley, Thomas Cooke, and John Sharples. The right of way was now "forcible and ryotouslie stopped uppe" to the great hindrance of the plaintiff, whose only exit it was from his farm. He was thus debarred from fetching "turve, coles, slate, stones," and all other necessities, and being "but a poor cotinge," desired that the "Quenes mates proces of pryvie seale" might be directed against the defendants. To which the defendants replied that they were not aware that Robert Lynols was lawfully seased of the messuage and tenement; and further that Henrie Towneley "hath lycensed" the complainant to use the road belonging to a neighbouring tenement, in consideration of which the plaintiff "hath payed unto the said Henrie Towneley the some of four pence yearly, and hath likewise given a daye harrowinge." And considering the right of way claimed to be hurtful and prejudicial the defendants admitted the charge.

In 1553, the return of the Muster of Soldiers was 20 men.

In 1583, a fifteenth was levied, the amounts for the parish being :—

	s.	d.
Alston-cum-Hothersall.....	14	0
Dutton .....	15	0
Ribchester-cum-Dilworth .....	35	0

Among the freeholders in Lancashire in the year 1600, were :—

Ricus Huthersall de Huthersall, gent.

Henr. Townley de Dutton, gent.

Ricus Warde de Ribchester, gent.

Johes Rodes de Ribchester, gent.

In 1601, Ribchester contributed towards the relief of prisoners and soldiers in the Marshalsea.

In 1624, upon a fifteenth was paid :—

	s.	d.
Alston .....	23	11½
Ribchester and Dilworth .....	74	4½
Dutton. ....	31	10½

In the same year the following items occur :—

A SUBSIDY FROM THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER.

	£	s.	d.
Rtoria de Ribchestr .....	7	0	0
[Hindly, Vicar] <sup>1</sup>			
Blackburn Hundred—			
“The taxinge of the Ministrey towards the Shipp of Warr.”			
Ribchester, xij <sup>d</sup>			

1639. Contributions in aid of the warr against the Sectch.

Blackburn Hundred—			
V. Blackburn, Adam Bolton .....	1	0	0
V. Whaley, Wm. Burn .....	0	10	0
The Rest are poor Curates			
1 : 0 : 0.			

26 : 14 : 8 Contributed from Amoundernes Deanery.

In the lists of Esquires and Gentlemen in Lancashire, who refused the order of Knighthood at the Coronation of Charles I. (1625), we find the names of the following gentlemen in this district.

Henry Townley of Dutton, gent., x/.  
 Richard Duckett, of the same, gent., x/.  
 Thomas Sherburne of Little Mitton, Esquire, xijl. vjs. viijd.  
 \* Henrie Doughtie of Thorneley, gent., x/.  
 John Roades, of Thorneley, gent., x/.  
 Thomas Bourne, of Thorneley, gent., x/.  
 James Norcrosse in Ribchester in Dilworth, gent., x/.  
 John Warde of Ribchester, gent., x/.  
 John Cottom of Ribchester, gent., x/.

Amounderness Hundred—

John Hothersall of Hothersall, gent., x/.

Six centuries ago an Act was passed called Statutum de Militibus rendering everyone who held a Knight's fee and possessed an income of £20 per annum (raised to £40 in the xvth. century), liable to be created a Knight, or in default pay a fine. Although these fines had been enforced during the reign of Mary and Elizabeth, they do not seem to have been imposed by James I.

Accordingly when the usual proclamation with reference to the obligatory Knighthoods were made, most of the persons concerned treated them as a mere matter of form. Soon, however, advantage was taken by Charles I. of the almost universal non-compliance with the proclamations, to send Commissioners to collect the fines (varying from £10 to £25) from the defaulters. And as the fines for Knighthood were from £60 to £70, most, probably all, who were summoned compounded. No less a sum than £3,553 was raised in Lancashire alone by the ingenious but unscrupulous King. <sup>2</sup>

Mr. W. A. Abram printed in the *Preston Guardian* some very interesting documents concerning irregular traders in Ribchester

<sup>1</sup> Blank in original.

<sup>2</sup> *Record Soc.* vol. xii.

\* Did not pay the Composition.

and district, in 1634-5. The company of Mercers, etc., objected to what they called their privileges being infringed, and petitioned the Privy Council to stop the country traders from vending flax and linen. John Cutler, of Ribchester, was singled out as the leading offender, and accordingly the following petition was presented against him.

“To his Majestie’s Judges of Assize att his Ma’tie’s Castle of Lancaster. The humble petition of Robte. Walton sheweth,— That whereas one John Cutler of Ribchester in this County, shop-keeper, hath for the space of 2 yeares and a halfe or thereabouts kept a shopp, being by his confession a convicted recusant, an utter enemie of the blessed world of God both in argument and lyfe, and hath commonly for the most parte weekly used to go whear preests of his profession are harbored to say masse; hee hath denyed his bodily service to his Majestie, being elected by a jury to serve as constable in this towne settinge his face against the whole towne, saying he would do no service, for hee paid for his profession or his conscience, and soe standeth out and will live as he listeth. Your Lordships peticoners humbly desire this: That on his Ma’tie’s behalf your Lo. wilbee pleased to call ye said Cutler before you and to offer or cause him take the oathe of Supremasie, whereby it may appear upon his examination wheather there bee in him any loyalty to his Ma’tie or not, or otherwyse to take suche course therein as in your Lor’ps wisdom may bee thought fittinge, wherein your peticoner and all that are faithfull Protestantes about us shall pray to God for your Lor’ps’ great prosperity.”

Cutler replied by stating, among other things, that his “shopp of divers wares” was “in a villag towne not standing in any high road ways, either for carriers or travelers for any profit;” and that he was “a man of good quality and faire conditioned, not gryndyng or extorting upon the pore or dealing hardly with any, and being a great comforte and comodity for neighbours for 2 or 3 myles,” and desired the Judges “to stay the proceedings until his master shall return from London, wbo at his coming will manage the cause, being himself a free man of the Cittie of London.” Among others, the following signed this petition:— John Cutler of Ribchester; Thomas Cutler of Alston; Henry

Walmsley of Alston; John Whaley of Dilworth; John Seede of Hothersall; Henry Whittingham of Goosenar; James Raby of Garstange, and Thomas Eccles of Hothersall. The Commissioners to whom the matter was referred, decided in favour of the country traders, conceiving that "the severall trades are rather to be continued (being in remote places from Preston) than suppressed, for that many thereby purchase relief for themselves and families, where otherwise they would live very poorely or be cast on the countrie or goe a begging, and especially the use of selling flaxe only which is a thing so frequently used in our County of Lancaster that if it bee taken away all the poorer sort of people who live by spinning and weaving linen clothes all yeare long (except in the time of harvest), and not being able to travel to markett, being 5, 8, or 10 miles distant, will be forced to begge for their releife and a meanes to encrease our poor in abundance;" and on the other hand against the public convenience was to be found "only for the private end and benefitt of some few of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Preston." Against this decision the company appealed; but from the following memorandum it would seem a "submission" was made:--I, John Cutler, of Ribchester, yeoman—that whereas Richard Blundell enformed against mee for selling cloth and flax contrarie to the law, I now do asum [?] and promes to bye and sell nether cloth nor flax for myself hereafter contrary to the law, and to acknolidge this my promes before Mr. Christopher Banaster, and to this my agreement I bynd mee and my assignes in Twenty Pounds. In witnes my hand this 25th of September, 1635. John Cutler—(Witnesses) Richard Hodgkinson, Arthur Sowerbutts.

The extent and character of the trade done by such a local tradesman as John Cutler can be seen from the subjoined list of "Wares sold by John Cutler of Ribchester, 1633-4."<sup>1</sup>

1633. Imprimis, sold to Ric. P'kinson Cloath for to be apparell, £3, June the 19th.

August the 22th, sold to Rob'te Catterall Cloath for Women's petticoates.

September the 7th, sold to the wyfe of Rob'te Walton 4 yardes of Red cloathe.

October the 7th, flax sold by John Cutler to 2 strangers.

13th of November, cloth sold to Rob'te Walton for stockings.

December the 22 or 29th, 2 suites of cloath sold to Adam Knowles.

The 15 or 16 of January, cloath sold to John Pope for gamasshows.

<sup>1</sup> *Prest. Guard. Sketches in Local Hist.*, 175.



February the 6th, sold to Rob'te Walton 3 yards of cloth for breeches.  
 March the 23, Red cloath sold to John Walnesley, of Bayley, for a peticoate.  
 1634. In Aprill, app'ell sold to Agnes Birley, Widow, value of 60s.  
 In December, 1633, apparell sold to John Holden, value of £4 13s. 4d.  
 Aprill, 1634, Silke and dyvers small Wares sold to Mr. Hothersall.  
 Maye the 9th, Cloath sold to William Carter.  
 Maye the 15th, 5 yardes for a suit, sold to Ric. Ribchester, fidler.  
 Maye the 15th, a suit sold to Ric. Hairst of Dutton township, threed, silk,

and fustans.

The 20th Maye, whyte ffustans sold to Richard Ribchester.

The sayd 20th day, cloth sold to Rob'te Radcliffe for shirtes.

The sayd moneth, sold to Abraham Claton, tobacco and pypes.

Tabbacko sold by Cutler duly weekly.

June the 14th, p'chment sold to Robte Cunliffe, and a suit of apparell to Charles Pickaringe.

June the 13th, silke and threed and bast sold to Betwith Bolton.

July the 11th, app'ell sold to Geoffrey Sharples, 45s.

June, a suit of cloth and ffustian to Edmund Carter, threed, buttons, &c.

June the 19th, cloth for children's app'ell sold to Willm. Carter.

July, clothe sold to Georg Hairst for breeches, *primo die*.

July the seacond, acquavyty sold to Rob. Walton, p'chment and Inke.

July the 8th, cloth sold to Tho : Preston.

*Ultimo die Junii*, clothe sold to Ric. Cottom.

*Undecimo die Julii*, sope and starch sold to Robte. Walton, paper evry week.

24 Day of Julye, green lace and pep. sold to Alice ux<sup>r</sup> Tho. Dewhirst.

The said 24 day, threed sold to John Michell.

*Primo die Julii*, hoppes sold to Mr. Walmsley, apparell on the other day, £3.

22 of July, a soldiers coat cloth sold to Ric. Dewhurst.

July the 25, bast, pep., and cloth sold to Widowe Seede, Hugh wyfe.

July the 27 (Sabbath Day) halff an ounce of tobbacko to Ric. Parkinson.

*Primo die Augusti*, 2 suites sold to Mr. Richard Crombleholme.

The 5th of August, hoppes sold to Mr. Walmsley, and cloth to Ux<sup>r</sup> Tho.

Rodes.

The 9th of August, George Claton bought 27 haspes [Hanks] of yrn.

October the 27th, Much flax, cloth, and wares sold by Jo. Cutler in abundance, to many sundrie persons.

Aprill 17th, 1634, wares sold to Mrs. Hothersall.

Dec. the 3rd, apparell sold to Thomas Oddie.

Fflax sold to Ane, ux<sup>r</sup> Rob'te Walton, the 13th of December, 1633.—Fflax sold to Agnes ux<sup>r</sup> Christavell Dewhurst, the 13th of Dec.—Fflax sold to Ane ux<sup>r</sup> Rob'te Walton, 19th of May, 1643.—Fflax sold to Rob'te Sheperd, July the 23, 1634.—Fflax sold to Jennett Mitton spinster, August the 15, 1634.—Fflax sold to Mary, ux<sup>r</sup> Henry Mercer, August 19, 1634.—Fflax sold to Mary, ux<sup>r</sup> John Pope, Sept. the 2, 1634.

During the civil war, Ribchester was the scene of more than one fight. Staunch Royalists the people were mostly, with a sprinkling of Roundheads. In April, 1643, the Earl of Derby invaded the Ribble Valley. "Therefore," says an old chronicler,

“not long after his regayning of Preston and burning at Lancaster, hee calls his Commanders and Souldiers to Preston again with his club of the ffield; and having them in a bodye with his afforesaid piece of Ordenance and Horse, the [between 10th and 20th April] or thereabouts sets forward and marches by Ribchester, from thence over Ribble at Salesbury boat and by Salesbury Hall and soe was well neare gotten to Whaley before he was discovered; his Clubmen according to their practice, plundering in most of the townes they passed by or thorow.”<sup>1</sup>

Taken by surprise the Earl of Derby was routed, “and made no stay till he came to Mr. ffeetwoods house at Penertam.”

In 1648, Cromwell made a forced march into Lancashire to intercept the Scots under the Duke of Hamilton. On the 14th August, he halted for the night at “Mr. Sherburne’s house called Stonyhurst about Hodder Watter.” Next day he resumed his march over Longridge fell, and after a toilsome journey engaged the enemy at Longridge chapel. Captain Hodgson has left a vivid account of this battle<sup>2</sup> which resulted in the complete defeat of the Royalists. The fight was sharp. We are told “the bullets flew freely; then was the heat of the battle that day. I came down” says Capt. Hodgson, “to the Muir, where I met with Major Jackson, that belonged to Ashton’s regiment, and about three hundred men were come up; and I ordered him to march, but he said he would not till his men came up. A Sergeant belonging to them, asked me, where they should march? I shewed him the party he was to fight; and he, like a true-bred Englishman marched, and I caused the soldiers to follow him; which presently fell upon the enemy, and, losing that wing, the whole army gave ground and fled. Such valiant acts were done by contemptible instruments!” Well did the gallant Captain’s regiment deserve “quarters in Preston” that night, and to sleep “quietly.”

A description of the dramatic scenes which occurred in Ribchester Church during this period will be found in chap. iv.

#### RECUSANCY AND CATHOLIC SUFFERINGS.

During the latter part of the sixteenth century, and frequently during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Recusants suffered much. Nowhere did they suffer more than in the parish

*Cheth. Soc.*, lxii., 31.

<sup>2</sup> *Autob. of Capt. Hodgson*, 33.

of Ribchester. For nearly the whole of the subjoined information I am indebted to Mr. Joseph Gillow, the leading authority on the subject.

In 1613 a return was made of the Recusants in Lancashire, but no names of those in this parish were given. In 1607 Katharine Cutler, and in 1621 Robert Fairclough were returned as recusants.

From the *Royalist Composition Papers* I have obtained the information upon which is based the following narrative of the sufferers in the parish of Ribchester:—

John Barker, gentleman, accused of treason, had his estates in Dutton, among other places, “forfeited to the Commonwealth.”

In Aug., 1653, the Trustees reported that Henry Tomlinson of Lancaster, gent., had purchased in that month a tenement called “Weetely house,” in or near Blackburn, and a cottage in Dutton. They therefore ordered the County Commissioners to let Henry Tomlinson have quiet possession of the said lands.<sup>1</sup>

In April, 1655, a report was issued that search had been made among the bookes of convictions and seizures for recusancy for the case of Thomas Seede of Goosnargh, without success; but there was a Thomas Seede of Ribchester, who was convicted of recusancy, 5 Chas. I. (1630). This estate was seized in 1646, and “prized” as follows:—ffarfield, 2 acres, 13s. 8d.; Acre, 1 acre, 8s. 0d.; Croft, 1 acre 2 roods, 10s. 0d.; Camtells, 1 acre 2 roods, 11s. 0d.; Wenfield, 2 acres 3 roods, £1; Cowfield, 3 acres, £1 2s. 0d.; Mooreground, 2 acres, 10s. 0d.; Mosie, 3 acres, 16s. 0d.; Outsyde, 3 acres, £1; sum total, 19 acres 3 roods, £6 10s. 8d. The report also states that mention is made “of the estate of Thomas Seed of Goosnargh, a Papist, to be lett to himselfe for the rent of £4 10s. 0d.”<sup>2</sup>

In June, 1653, the Trustees reported that Robert Holt, of London, merchant, did purchase several messuages and lands in Alston, in the parish of Ribchester, late parcell of the estate of James, late Earle of Derby. They also made the usual order as to possession.<sup>3</sup>

A long and very diffuse account is given of a petition of Lady Ann Lucas and Thomas Walmsley, of Dunkenhalth and London,

<sup>1</sup>*Royal Com. Payers*, 1st Ser., vi., 297.

*Ibid.*, viii., 118, 120.  
<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, xix., 515.

for the restoration to them of a tenement in Ribchester, the property of the late Justice Walmsley and Nicholas Walmsley—which property had been sequestered in 1643—(as to  $\frac{2}{3}$ ds thereof) owing to the recusancy of the then tenant, Leonard Walmsley, who had married Elizabeth, the daughter of the lessee, Thomas Dewhurst of Ribchester. Some further details of this matter will be found in chap. xi.

William Dewhurst, of Dewhurst, Dutton, gent., was returned in 1644 as a delinquent “for being in arms against the King.” We are told that he “came in upon my Lord ffarifax’, his passe, 31st June, 1644, and hath lived in the Parliament Quarters ever since, and farmed the most part of his estate from the Committee of Yorkshire.” Wm. Dewhurst also took the “National Covenant before William Barton, minister of John Zacchary;” and he also took “the Negative Oath.” His estates are returned as being in “the Townes and fields of Dewhurst,” in Blackburn, Rybchester, and Hothersall parishes, the yearly value “before these troubles” being £134. He was fined £268. The documents in connection with the case are extremely lengthy—a summary of them will be found in chap. xi.

The Hothersalls, of Hothersall Hall, who remained staunch Catholics amid the trying ordeal to which they were subject, annually suffered the fines and penalties of recusancy—two-thirds of their estates being forfeited according to the act.

The Recusants in the joint township of Alston-cum-Hothersall in 1667 were:—

Thomas Bleasdale and Ann his wife.

Jane, wife of James Bleasdale.

Richard Fairclough and Margt his wife.

[The Faircloughs were of an ancient yeomanry family settled in Ribchester and

Alston. Some of them resided at the Bough, or Bought, (now called the Boot) where Father Vavasour established his chapel (see chap. v.)

Other members of the family resided at Leagram, and were also Recusants.

Thomas Suddall and Anne his wife.

William Cutler.

George Cutler.

Grace Harrison, widow.

Agnes Daniell, widow.

Christopher Rogerson.

Alice Sanderson, widow. [She was the widow of Wm. Sanderson, of Alston, who died in 1665, and her maiden name was probably Singleton. They

were a respectable family of the middle class. Their son, Nicholas, born at Alston, in 1648, made his humanities at St. Omer's, whence he was admitted into the English College at Rome, in 1666, and, having been ordained priest there in 1670, came to the Mission in Lancashire.]

Elizabeth, wife of Henry Winckley.

Wm. Walmsley and Anne his wife.

Wm. Hothersall, gent, and Grace, his wife (see chap. xi.).

Elizabeth, wife of Lawrence Pemberton, husbandman.

William Turner, and Miles, his son.

Richard Wilkinson.

Henry Walmsley, and Elizabeth his wife.

Christopher Willacy, and Jane his wife.

John Sharples.

Thomas Sharples.

Margaret wife of Richard Bilsborrow.

Anne Albine.

Thomas Gregson, and Catherine his wife.

Jennet Gregson, widow.

Richard and Henry Gregson.

Ellen Seed, spinster.

John Tasker, and Margaret his wife.

Anne, wife of Robert Hacking.

William Brittain, and Alice his wife.

Thomas Sagar.

Elizabeth Cunliffe, and Anne her daughter.

Wm. and Richard Albine.

Lawrence Philips.

Thomas Hothersall, gent (see chap. xi.).

Elizabeth, wife of Henry Marsden.

George Duckett, and Anne his wife.

Robert Ireland, and Jennett his wife.

Anne Hitchin.

Ellen, wife of Richard Greenwood.

Grace, wife of Wm. Hothersall.

Thomas Halsay, and Elizabeth his daughter.

Katherine Osbaldeston, widow.

Oliver Ley.

Ellen Norcrosse, widow (see chap. xi.).

Robert Sharples, and Alice his wife.

#### 1679-80. RECUSANTS IN ALSTON-CUM-DILWORTH.

Richard Kay, yeoman, outlawed.

Thomas Bleasdale, yeoman, outlawed. [His daughter, Jane, married John Westby, of White Hall, Esq., in Aug., 1684.]

William Cutler, of Alston, husbandman, outlawed.

Richard Wilkinson, husbandman, outlawed.

Richard Shuttleworth, husbandman, outlawed. [His son Thomas Shuttleworth was tried and convicted of high treason for taking part in the Jacobite rising of 1715 (see *post.*)

Miles Turner, outlawed.



Thomas Gregson, outlawed.

Thomas Hothersall, gent., outlawed. [He took part in the Jacobite rising of 1715; and being outlawed made his escape and lived in retirement with his sister, Mrs. Leckonby, at Great Eccleston (also see chap. xi.).]

Robert Tomlinson, yeoman, outlawed (see *post*).

RECUSANTS IN ALSTON-CUM-HOTHERSALL, CONVICTED AT LANCASTER  
ASSIZES, JAN. 15, 1716.

Robert Tomlinson, husbandman.

Thomas Gleave, servant.

Mary Hothersall, spinster.

Grace Dewhurst, widow (see chap. xi.).

James Hornby, husbandman.

William Herd.

John Hothersall, gent. (see chap. xi.).

Christopher Robinson, husbandman.

George Ashton, husbandman.

Isabel Hothersall, spinster (see chap. xi.).

James Rogerson, husbandman.

Thomas Hothersall, husbandman.

William Rogerson, husbandman (see *post*).

Thomas Harrison.

Robert Harrison, husbandman.

John Hothersall, the younger, husbandman.

John Cowell, husbandman.

Thomas Hothersall, gent. (see chap. xi.).

Margaret Billsborrow, widow.

Ralph Whittaker, husbandman.

William Danson, labourer.

William Troutbeck, tailor.

Sir Walter Vavasor, a reputed Priest (see chap. vi.).

James Bradley, husbandman.

John Duckworth [or Duckett] (see *post*).

Thomas Kitchin, husbandman.

Richard Hothersall, husbandman.

George Rogerson, husbandman.

Thomas Sudill, labourer.

Alice Winckley, widow.

Thomas Kighley, smith.

William Hothersall, husbandman.

Richard Billsborrow, husbandman. [Although registered as a husbandman, Billsborrow possessed a fair estate, valued at £20 a year. He was outlawed in 1716 for taking part in the Jacobite rising.]

Thomas Gregson, husbandman (see *post*).

John Hothersall, husbandman.

Anne Hothersall, widow (see *post*).

John Sudell, husbandman.

Robert Daniell, gent. [He came of a good Catholic family; and was outlawed for taking part in the Jacobite rising of 1715.]

Wm. Walmsley, yeoman (see *post*).

Joseph Kay, husbandman.

1667. JOINT TOWNSHIP OF RIBCHESTER-CUM-DILWORTH.

Thomas Cutler, and Elizabeth his wife.

Robert Harris.

Ellen Cottam, and Alice her daughter.

Anne, wife of Roger Dewhurst.

Anne, wife of Roger Sherborne.

Anne Fairclough.

Anne, Wife of John Wood.

Mary Wood, widow.

Edward Walmsley, and Mary his wife.

Mary, wife of John Bolton.

Bridget Hesketh.

Edward Eccles.

John Norcrosse, linen webster.

Mary, wife of Jeoffrey Cowell.

Anne, wife of Lawrence Cottam, junior, of Dilworth.

Anne Cottam, of Dilworth.

John Fairclough, of Dilworth, and Jennet his wife.

Elizabeth, wife of Richard Cottam, junior, of Dilworth (see chap. xi.).

Thomas Seed, and Jennet his wife (see chap. xi.).

Dorothy Herd, widow.

Jennett, wife of Thomas Lynne.

Grace Lynne.

John Eccles, junior.

Margaret, wife of John Hacking.

Elizabeth Hayhurst, widow (see chap. xi.).

Ellen, wife of George Hayhurst, of Dilworth.

Alice, wife of Adam Robys.

Thomas Roughley, and his wife.

William Pearson.

John Jackson, and Ellen his wife.

Dorothy, wife of Thomas Towneley.

1680.

Lawrence Cottom, yeoman.

Thomas Cottom, yeoman (see chap. xi.).

Ellis Cottam, of Dilworth.

Henry Cottam, of Dilworth.

1716.

Richard Walmsley, Esq., and Jane his wife, and Elizabeth and Anne his daughters. [Richard Walmsley, Esq., of Sholley Hall, seems to have been residing at Ribchester at this time. His wife was Jane, daughter of John Houghton, of Park Hall, Esq.; she died Nov. 13, 1722. His sister, born at Park Hall, in 1656, became Abbess in the English Benedictine College at Cambrai, from 1697 to 1701, and again from 1710 to 1713, and died there Jan. 6, 1726. Richard Walmsley, who registered his estate as a non-juror in 1717, died Aug. 19, 1737. His daughters Elizabeth and Anne, both died unmarried in 1733 and 1732 respectively.]

Thomas Bolton and his wife, and Lancelot his son, and Elizabeth his daughter. [Thomas Bolton, of Ribchester, mercer, registered a leasehold estate in Billington, in 1717. He died in 1723. His son Lancelot Bolton, was high Constable of Ribchester for many years. He died at Ribchester in 1747.]

John Cottam and his wife (see *post*).

John Walmsley and his wife (see *post*).

John Higginson, yeoman (see *post*).

Francis Halsall, yeoman.

Edward Abraham and his wife.

Thomas Pope and his daughters Jenet and Alice.

Wm. Rogerson, yeoman (see chap. xi.).

Mary Barton.

Mary Sharrock.

Margaret Halsall.

#### 1667. TOWNSHIP OF DUTTON.

Elizabeth, wife of Robert Ash.

Mary, wife of Richard Hayhurst

Anne Hayhurst.

Thomas Carter.

Dorothy, wife of Richard Goodshay [Goodshaw] and Katharine her daughter.

Richard Sowerbutts and Jenet his wife.

Ellen, wife of Wm. Orte.

Ann, wife of Robt. Barton.

#### 1716.

Lawrence Hayhurst and his wife (see *post*).

Dorothy Wombell.

John Hartley and his wife.

Henry Pope and his wife.

Wm. Jackson, yeoman.

Robert Read and his wife, and Jane his daughter. [Robert Read died at Preston in 1726.]

Sarah Whittaker.

James Lumley.

James Hartley, yeoman.

Elizabeth Cutler.

Elizabeth Stanley.

#### THE REBELLIONS OF '15 AND '45.

The rising of 1715 met with a good deal of support in Ribchester, principally from the Sherburnes, Hothersalls, and other Catholic families. Mr. J. O. Payne, in his recently published *Records of the English Catholics of 1715*, gives some interesting particulars of local incidents in connection with the rebellion. Ric. Sherburn, late of Preston, gent., on the evidence of Thomas Rishton, of Gorn Gore, gent., was said to have been outlawed for high treason, and after making his escape "from Preston, after the battle

there," is said to have conveyed his estate, called Bayley Hall, to one William Crombleholme, to prevent its forfeiture; "and that an estate called Stidd, in the town of Dutton and parish of Ribchester, belongs to John, younger brother of Ric. Sherburne."<sup>1</sup> Another informer was Nathan Marsh, of Preston, flax-dresser. In his deposition, Marsh stated "that he was present at a place called Dutton Lee about Michaelmas last" (1715), when John Wareing, of Bayley, "drunke the Pretender's health by the name and title of King James the Third of England and Eighth of Scotland." Great efforts were successfully made to implicate Sir Nicholas Sherburne in the rising. Some of the depositions are extremely amusing. Much is made of a "lead pann and some lead;" and "four of Sir Nicholas's coach horses" were said to have been sent to swell the rebels' forces. We are also told "that there was above 30 of y<sup>e</sup> Rebels at Stonyhurst the Friday at night before the action at Preston."<sup>2</sup> A tradition lingers among the descendants of the Pyes of Buckley Hall that a foray was made upon Ribchester for horses by the rebel cavalry with but limited success, as the sturdy Hanoverian farmers received timely warning, and turned their horses loose on the common and moorland. In the parish register occurs the following entry of burial: "1716, Oct. 3. Tho. Shuttleworth de Alston, executed for treason, in church."

Among the sufferers for participation in the rising, most of whom were non-jurors, were the following:—

Robert Tomlinson, yeoman, of Alston, leasehold estate under M. Nelson, gent., of Fairhurst, and under Sir Charles Hoghton, Bart.

John Hothersall, gent., of Hothersall Hall, outlawed.

William Rogerson, of Hothersall, leasehold house and 14 acres of land in his own possession.

John Duckworth, *alias* Duckett, yeoman, of Alston, leasehold property, formerly granted by Sir Henry Hoghton to Anne Duckworth, then Anne Dewhurst. Also 14½ acres in Ribchester during term of 500 years at a peppercorn rent.

Thomas Gregson, of Alston, house and 20 acres in fee simple in Alston, and 6½ acres more on decease of his mother, widow Gregson, and a leasehold estate in Alston, 16s.

Anne Hothersall, widow, of Alston, leasehold houses in Alston and Ashton.

Richard Bilsborrow, husbandman, outlawed, estate valued at £20 a year.

Robert Davine, outlawed.

<sup>1</sup>*Rec. Eng Cath.*, 144.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 144-7.

William Walmsley, yeoman, of Alston, 2 messuages and 33 acres in Alston, one called "Bushell's" and the other "Walmsley" tenement, leasehold.

Richard Walmsley, Esq., of Sholley Hall, £205 4s. 6d.

Thomas Bolton, mercer, of Ribchester, leasehold estate in Billington, £12.

John Cottam, yeoman, of Ribchester, a messuage and 30 acres in fee simple in Ribchester, and 4 acres in Dilworth leasehold, and 9 acres in Dilworth in fee simple, 6 acres in Dillworth Moss, leasehold, and 9 acres in Wrightington in fee simple, £14 5s. 8d.

John Walmsley, husbandman, of Dilworth, a leasehold messuage and 7 acres in Dilworth.

John Higginson, yeoman and miller, Dilworth, a messuage and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Dilworth and Ribchester, and 4 acres in Dilworth in fee simple; also a milne and croft in Dilworth in his own possession, £8.

Lawrence Hayhurst, yeoman, Dutton, a leasehold house and 20 acres in Dutton.

William Rogerson, of Hothersall, husbandman, house and 14 acres.

Lawrence Cottam, of Dilworth, gent., leasehold house at Ribchester, £27.

Richard Trafford, of Ribchester, gent., annuity of £10 out of Croston, etc., the property of his brother John Trafford, and annuity of £25 from estate of Humphrey Trafford, of Trafford, Esq. [Son of John Trafford, of Croston; Humphrey Trafford was his uncle.]

The severity of the Government was extreme, the poor fugitives being hunted down in the hills whither they had fled. On Longridge Fell a barracks was built to serve as the headquarters of the soldiery of the district from which the homes of the humble adherents of the Old Pretender were harassed.

These severe measures no doubt tended to lessen the enthusiasm of the people of Ribchester towards the Young Pretender, who apparently did not receive much local support in the rising of 1745. For whereas no record remains of any notice being taken of the defeat of the Rebels in 1715-16, the church bells at Ribchester were rung three several times in 1745-6, when the Duke of Cumberland defeated the Jacobites at Preston, Carlisle, and Culloden.

The following list of the poor of Ribchester at the close of the seventeenth century is interesting :—

A true copy or List of the poore of Ribchester and their necessity. And their monthly allowance since ye 29th of April, 1693.

	s.	d.
Imps paid to Mary Hayhurst for one month towards the maintaineing of one young child .....	02	00
paid to Lawrence fish for keeping one child of Thomas Blackborne for a month.....	03	00
paid to John Turner towards ye keepeing of a lame child and other younge children .....	02	00



paid to Margaret Sharples, widow, being old and not able to worke f. one month.....	02 00
paid to Alice Greenwood, widow, ffor keepeing severll young children for ye month .....	02 00
paid to Elizabeth Lindell, being lame and not able to worke for month	01 00
paid to Hugh Parker for keepeing of severll younge children ff. month	01 00
paid to James Sharples being sick and not able to worke ffor month...	04 00
paid to Richard Newsham being lame and not able to keepe himselffe ff. month besides his apparrell .....	06 00
paid to Anne Hacking being troubled with the ffaleing sickness monthly besides her apparrell .....	05 00

## WINDOW TAX IN 1752.

From a document which has been preserved the subjoined list is taken :—

“Mr. Entwistle, 14 windows, assessment 9s. 0d.; John Hyde, 16 windows, 14s. 0d.; John Pye, 14 windows, 9s. 0d.; Josiah Peele, 9 windows, 2s. 0d.; Robert Greenalls, 8 windows, 2s. 0d.; Richard Greenall, ditto; Richard Greenall, hatther, 9 windows, 2s. 0d.; John Cottam, 9 windows, 2s. 0d.

The parish of Ribchester is pleasantly situated on the south-eastern slopes of Longridge Fell. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Chipping, on the east by the parish of Mitton, on the south by the river Ribble, and on the west by Grimsargh and Goosnargh.

The total acreage of the old parish of Ribchester was 8,150 acres.

The country is hilly, rising in the valley of the Ribble from 100 feet to 1,022 feet above sea level on the summit of Jeffrey Hill. The river Ribble washes the southern boundary, while small brooks help to swell its volume of water from the hills which enclose its valley.

Dr. Stukeley, writing in 1725, says Ribchester “is prettily seated on a rising knoll upon the river; at some distance all around inclosed with higher ground, well clothed with wood and hedge-rows: beyond which the barren mountains, or fells, as they generally call them here.”<sup>1</sup>

The beauties of its scenery have often been described in glowing terms. The great charm consists in its diversity. From the heights of Longridge Fell one can gain a splendid view. On the north the Cumberland hills; to the east Pendle, with Clitheroe

<sup>1</sup> *Iter Borcale.*

Castle nestling at its base; to the south the Ribble—

“Than which no lovelier river flows

Down to the western main.”<sup>1</sup>

with all its picturesque windings and turns; southward and westward the coast line of the Irish Sea interposes a “silver streak” between the Welsh mountains and the sky. The climate is bracing, the wind for eight months in the year being in the west; and the air (where unpolluted with nineteenth century “sanitation”) is remarkably pure. The temperature is very variable; there being a marked contrast in the climate of the north-western and south-western sides of the Fell.

Geologically, Ribchester is just outside the Lancashire coal field. The underlying rocks are members of the Yoredale series, which includes millstone grit, and slate, and limestone. The Mountain Limestone, as it is sometimes termed, abounds in the district, although not nearly so much developed as in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Good building stone has for generations been found in the higher portions of the parish. “Longridge stone” was for years in great demand. “Along the banks of the Ribble,” adds Mr. F. C. King, to whom I am indebted for the above information, “notably at Ribchester, may be seen the glacial deposits in sections, where the fossils of the drift are obtainable.”<sup>2</sup> Besides the stone for which Longridge is noted, slate is also found. A quarry called “Buckley Delph” was at one time largely worked.

Vegetation is not particularly profuse in the district—the soil scarcely being suitable. Trees do not obtain any very great size, with one or two exceptions however. Yews and oaks were at one time largely grown. A few years ago there was a magnificent old oak close to Alston Hall (the old Hall). It was one of “the shows” of the country. Mr. W. Dobson says, “it was one time used as a shippon: it was 42 feet in circumference at its base, and at 18 inches from the ground was 36 feet in circumference. It was hollow, and one could see the sky from the interior.”<sup>3</sup> I regret to say that the old oak has been cut down.

As in other parts of Lancashire, so in Ribchester parish, the conditions of agriculture have undergone a remarkable change

<sup>1</sup>Parkinson's *Poems*.  
*Hist. of Longridge*, 253.

<sup>3</sup>*Rambles by the Ribble*, iii. 19.

since the beginning of the present century. There were in 1886 only 13 acres under the plough.<sup>1</sup> A hundred years ago the farmer's anxiety was not (as it is now) about the price of cattle, or milk and butter, but about the price of corn, as is clear from old diaries we have in our possession. Naturally the land is poor and sterile, but the steady industry of the small farmers has improved its natural condition even to the highest portions of the parish, so that for grazing purposes it is extremely valuable, the average price being from 30s. to 100s. an acre per year. For centuries moorland, bog, and morass had limited the cultivable area of the parish. Most of Longridge Fell and the ridge which extends into Dutton were common land down to 1807. The following is a summary of the enclosure awards :—

At the house of Mr. John Wharton, Innkeeper, in Dilworth, in the County of Lancaster, 27 July, 1808, Adam Cottam, Edward Lovat, and William Harper, gentlemen, Commissioners appointed under an Act passed in 1808, entitled "an Act for enclosing lands in the Parishes of Chipping, Mitton, and Ribchester," and certain other like Acts, did meet and fix the boundaries of Dutton and Ribchester as under :

Dutton. Commencing upon the Fell at the great stone heap west of the Beacon, and proceeding south-westward adjoining the manor of Thornley by a small heap of stones to an upright stone called the White Stoop, and forward to a heap of stones called the Cripple Oak, then proceeding southward in a direct line to a large stone in the White Slack called the Grey Stone, where the junction with Thornley ends, etc., etc., etc. And we hereof do declare that all the land contained within this last described boundary (except the Farm and Land called Linalls, hereinbefore described as part of the Hamlet of Bailey) is within the parcel of the manor of Dutton.

We do also ascertain, set out, determine, and fix the Boundaries of the Manor of Ribchester as follow :—Commencing upon the Fell at a large stone in the White Slack, called the Grey Stone, and proceeding southward adjoining the manor of Dutton across that part of the Fell called Gannow, in a direct line to an upright

<sup>1</sup>In 1829 Baines says one fourth of the land in the parish was arable.

(MSS. Shepherd's Library, Preston.

stone called the Long Stoop; thence, continuing in the same direction to a Boundary stone on Toad Hole, adjoining the Longridge and the Clitheroe Road, and across the said road, and forward to another upright stone called Riddysnape Stone, from thence to a spring near Riddysnape House. Thence by Fawney, Dod's Corner, "where it enters the ancient enclosures," then down the brook to Hayhurst Common. On the west and north sides some of the boundary points are Eatocks, "through Woodcock Hall," Francis Green, Simmy Nook, Ward Green Brook, White Carr Brook, "Knowl Green Bridge," and "Dilworth Inclosures."

In 1844 "the chief employment is weaving, which is carried on in connection with farming operations. But we heard heavy complaints of rack rents and miserably low wages, with uncertain work; and, in truth, the place has every appearance of poverty, and offers a painful contrast with the historical recollections which it bears, and the beautiful scenery which invites the eye and gratifies the taste on every side around it."<sup>1</sup>

There are no markets held in the parish. The fairs are all held in Longridge. Three fairs used to be held annually in Ribchester; they are now discontinued.

Agriculture was the staple trade for a long time; but in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries cotton and woollen weaving seems to have been much in vogue. In 1821, "of the 707 families in this parish, 100 of them are employed chiefly in agriculture; and 577 in trades, manufactures, or handicraft; the remaining 30 are either engaged in professional pursuits or unemployed."<sup>2</sup> Wood-turning, quarrying, and cotton weaving have for the last hundred years been the chief industries of the district.

The parish is well provided with roads; several follow the track of the Roman roads, as will be seen from the map which accompanies this work. Perhaps the most noted roads are the two over Longridge Fell, and Written-stone-lane. Down the lower road on Longridge Fell came Cromwell on his forced march to intercept the Scots. It is currently reported that the great soldier used strong language as he slowly made his way along the rough and difficult road. These characteristics the road bears now. Written-stone-lane is a portion of a Roman bridle-path about four feet in

<sup>1</sup> *Pic. Hist. Co., Lancaster*, 1844.

<sup>2</sup> *Baines's Directory* (1825) ii., 634.

width, with steep banks on either side, and water coursing down its sides. Its weirdness and seclusion well fit it as the scene of ghostly stories. Its name is taken from a stone which bears the legend, "Ravffe Radcliffe laid this stone to lye for ever, A.D. 1655." (See *post.*)

The Folk-lore of the parish is in many respects particularly interesting and noteworthy. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals are made the occasions for the usual "feasts." The custom of placing a rope across the road to prevent the departure of newly married couples from the church gates until "blackmail" is paid still prevails.

Coffins were filled with box, bays, and rosemary; "and the bodies of some had laid with them a copper coin and a willow wand—the former to pay the boatman with, and the latter to drive off evil spirits. I have seen," adds Mr. E. Kirk, "box leaves, after lodging more than twenty years in a coffin, come out fresh and green."<sup>1</sup>

The public-house signs of Ribchester parish, past and present, are—The White Bull, The Black Bull, The Blue Bell, Red Lion, Bay Horse, The Dog, Dog and Partridge, Duke William, Cross Keys, Hall's Arms, White Cross, Pole Cat, Moor Cock, White Lion, Old Oak, Corporation Arms (formerly Old Black Bull), Spencer's Arms, Towneley Arms, Durham Ox, Wheat Sheaf, Bull and Royal, and Forrest's Arms. The sign of the Bull speaks of the long lordships of the Hoghtons; that of the White Cross perpetuates the memory of a white cross long since despoiled by ignorant vandals; those of the Pole Cat, Moor Cock, etc., remind us of the existence of vermin and game; the rest are called after the owners, or have no local significance.

The games of quoits, "guinea-peg," and football seem to be indigenous to the district.

No memory of the "cucking stool" survives; the stocks were in use so late as 1829.

A few "legends" are told in connection with Ribchester. At Hothersall Hall, 'tis said, the Devil had undertaken to oblige some inhabitant with whatsoever he should desire in return for a surrender of the dalesman's soul when it left the earth. He had

<sup>1</sup> *Manch. Lit. Club Papers* III., 111.



been allowed three wishes, one thing—the only one recorded—the Hothersall man asked for, was a rope made from sand of the river Ribble. In case of failure his Satanic Majesty had consented to be “laid” under one of the laurel trees growing in the valley.

“The Devil and mate then went to the strand,  
In a jiffey they twisted a fine rope of sand,  
And dragged it along with them over the land;  
But when they brought the rope to be washed,  
To atoms it went—the rope was all smashed!”

So the Devil was “hoist with his own petard,” and sleeps peacefully under a laurel tree in the Ribble valley.

Mr. Wilkinson says the “Hothersall Hall Devil” was “laid” under the root of a large laurel tree at the end of the house, to protect the family from molestation so long as the tree exists. As the old rhyme has it—

Rowan, ash, and red thread,  
Keep the Devils frae their speed.

Mr. Wilkinson also states that “it is a common practice with the housewives in this district, to tie a piece of red worsted thread round the cows’ tails, previous to turning them out to grass for the first time in the spring. It secures their cattle, they say, from an evil eye, etc.”

Jeffrey Hill is said to have long been the haunt of a freebooter, named “Ned of the Fell.” Written-Stone-lane is haunted by the ghost of a murdered man, and the “written stone” is said to have been put down to appease the restless spirit. A “Woman in white” haunts “Daniell Plat;” and at Walton Fold was a demon who committed many strange vagaries until “laid” by a priest, the Rev. Jas. Fisher. Holly Hall was for a long time the domicile of a spirit. The parish is perambulated on a change of the Lord of the Manor. The last perambulation took place in 1829.

Some of the old social customs are interesting and worthy of mention. For particulars of many of them I am indebted to Mr. E. Kirk’s valuable “papers” published by the Manchester Literary Club.<sup>1</sup> Plough Monday commenced the year; on this day the school reopened after the Christmas holidays. Old

<sup>1</sup> *Manch. Lit. Club Papers* III., 109.

“Kesmus” (Christmas Day) and Old New Year’s Day were both observed as holidays. “There was a saying” says Mr. E. Kirk, “that between Christmas Day and Old Christmas Day, days were a ‘cockstrine’ longer, *i.e.*, increased in length by the space of time occupied by a cock in crowing.” The second of February, Candlemas Day, was a noteworthy day. Farmers changed (as they do now) the tenancies of their land; and ploughing began on this day. “Many of the peasantry, who had spent all their past life toiling in farm service, took this opportunity for changing their state from single to double blessedness.” The old injunction was – on

Candlemas Day,  
Put Cards an’ Candles away.

Valentine’s Day, Shrove Tuesday, Collop Monday, Cock Thursday, were celebrated in a hearty and festive way, as were Braggat Sunday (Mid-Lent) and Easter. The custom of rolling dyed eggs on Easter Monday is still in vogue, notably at Preston. “Lifting,” says Mr. E. Kirk, has long since disappeared from the district. The last instance Mr. Kirk knew of, was at Farington, in 1864, when several persons, including Mr. Kirk, were thrown up by a number of females and caught again, “in manifestation of joy at the arrival of the first load of cotton after the great famine.”<sup>1</sup> April 30, is called “Mischief Neet.” On May-day the farmers give up possession of their buildings. Of the weather the popular rhyme is—

A weet and windy May  
For fillin’ barns wi’ corn and hay.

Another weather truism is:—

When th’ wind’s ith’ eäst  
Its neither good for man nor beäst.

“Before the days of Clubs the fair of the district was held on Rogation Sunday and the rest of the week, and every house within certain bounds held the privilege to sell ale and porter, and continued to do so down to my own recollection.”<sup>2</sup>

The collection of tithe sheaves led to a curious custom.<sup>3</sup> Teanla Neet was the last night in August. Fires were lit in order to “leet th’ souls o’ their relatives out o’ purgatory.” So it was said of the Roman Catholics.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, III., 110.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Manch. Lit. Club Papers* III., 103.

<sup>4</sup> *Manch. Lit. Club Papers* III., 109.

Christmas was right-well observed. Every child had its mince pie, of huge dimensions. The present writer has often "let Kesmus in" by calling out:—

Owd wives arise  
An' bake your pies,  
It's Kesmus Day ith' morning.

"Beasts were believed to be converted into bees at midnight of Christmas Eve; and I know," says Mr. E. Kirk, "some people who," in 1875, "waited up to test the truth of the belief."<sup>1</sup> "Campin'" was a favourite winter's enjoyment.

But then, as now, courtship constituted one of the chief charms of country life. "Foreigners" who came a-courting had to "stand treat," or get "secked." "Sitting up," somewhat after the Scotch fashion, without (perhaps) the Scotch evils, was an ordinary thing. No "chap" might meet his "woman" on a Friday evening. That was "jinglin neet." "If he did, he would be sure to set all the old frying pans and kettles in motion, as if a thousand bees were aswarm."<sup>1</sup> A good story is told by Mr. E. Kirk, who, being a native of a neighbouring parish, had his mind permeated with the old folk lore of the district. "A father in the Nook was trying to dissuade his daughter from marriage, and quoted St. Paul as saying: 'Those that marry do well, but those who do not do better.' The lass retorted: 'I'm content to do weel; but let them do better as con!'"<sup>2</sup>

The dialect of the parish of Ribchester has lingered longer than in most parts of Lancashire. Shut off to a great extent from the outer world, the people easily preserved their primitive character in manner and speech. It is well known that there is a considerable difference in the dialect of the County Palatine on either side of the river Ribble. Some of these differences are remarkable. The "O'er Ribbler," as the dweller on the South side of the Ribble is called, uses *edges* for hills; we use *fells*; our calves are *coves*; his are *cawves*. We say *mornin'*, not *maurnin'*,<sup>2</sup> for morning. His young women are *wenches*, ours are *lasses*. To *tear* South of the Ribble is *rent*, in Ribchester, *rive*. *A lung paand o' butter* in Ribchester, would be converted into *a raand paand o' buther* at Chorley.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

More into detail I cannot here enter ; I can only add that the publication by the Manchester Literary Club of a *Lancashire Glossary* has supplied a long-felt want.

The population and acreage returns are appended :—

	Area in Acres.	Population.				
		1801.	1821.	1841.	1861.	1881.
Alston.....	1989	476	758	807	1098	1589
Dilworth.....	1226	524	969	845	959	2116
Dutton .....	1809	388	521	563	312	259
Hothersall .....	1033	188	190	169	159	132
Ribchester .....	2093	1172	1760	1727	1357	1282

The first two townships form the Ecclesiastical district of Longridge; the three last form the Parish of Ribchester; the extra-parochial chapelry of Stydd is included in the parish of Ribchester. The Local Government and Parliamentary boundaries are very confusing.

Hundred of Blackburn.	Hundred of Amounderness.	Darwen Division of Lancashire.	Blackpool Division of Lancashire.
Ribchester	Alston	Ribchester	Alston
Dutton	Hothersall	Dutton	Hothersall
Dilworth		Dilworth	

## CHAPTER II.

## The Church.



ALTHOUGH there is no record of the Parish church of Ribchester, dedicated to St. Wilfrid, in the Domesday Survey, it is certain that it was in existence at a very early period. In Saxon times Ribchester formed a portion of the very extensive parish of Whalley.<sup>1</sup> In the *Status de Blagborneshire*, supposed to have been written in the fourteenth century, mention is made of the churches of Blagborne, Chepyn, and Ribbchester, being built about 596—"the devotion of the faithful having increased, and the number of believers in Blagborn augmented." According to this document the parish of Ribchester was separate and distinct from that of Whalley. The statements we have quoted are very improbable, and have no confirmation so far as we are aware. Canon Raines states that a church was built before the time of Hen. II.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Whitaker considered that the foundation of the church was no earlier than the reign of Hen. II.<sup>3</sup> He also gives the following extract from the presentment of the Jury of Blackburnshire at Lancaster Assizes, 20 Oct., 1246. *Quod ecclesia de Wallay est in donacione domini Regis occasione custodis Edm de Lascy. Et valet per annum vii<sup>xx</sup> marcas. Et Petrus de Cestria eam tenet. Et ecclesia de Ribbecestria similiter est in donacione domini Regis per eadem custodiam. Et Imbertus clericus eam tenet et valet per annum xl marcas.*<sup>4</sup> The *Taxation Roll* of Pope Nicholas IV. (1291-2) gives the annual value of the parish church of Ribchester at £22.

In 1338, Henry de Cliderhowe granted lands in Ribchester for a chaplain.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Hibbert-Ware states that in 1296, the churches of Blackburn and Whalley, "formed, along with the church of Rybbcestr' and the church of Chypyn, the assemblage appertaining to the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

of Blackburn."—*Foundations of Manchester*, iv., 99.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. of Whalley*, II. 472.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, II., 459.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, II., 462.



In a charter dated 24 Edw. II. (1355), among other things, to which reference is made in Chapter xii., right was also retained to build "a bridge of stone or of wood" *quod bene liceat Rectori ecclesie de Ribchester vel Dom. de Osbaldeston*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1405 Sir Richard de Hoghton founded a Chantry, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the North side of the choir in the Church of Ribchester. Sir Richard's daughter Katherine, the wife of Hugh Venables, Baron of Kinderton, rented certain lands in Dutton, Ribchester, and Chipping, in trust, for a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in this chapel, or in a second chantry on the South side of the choir (usually called the Hoghton choir), and not the original one as has been generally supposed by Whitaker, Raines, and other writers. The choir on the north side is called the Dutton choir. In 10 Hen. IV. (1409) John del More "*persona ecclesie de Ribchester*" gave Sibyl, wife of Roger de ffulthropp, his manors of Salesbury and Clayton, and lands in Preston, Ribchester, Dutton, etc.<sup>2</sup>

In the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, various grants were made of lands in Ribchester to the vicars and chaplains of the church, reference to which is made in chapter IV.

In 1488, "Variance and discord" having arisen between "Ellis Crombleholme, Priest of the perpetuall chauntrye of our Lady in Ribblechester on the one part, and John Blackburne, son and heire of Thomas Blackburne, on the other part," Alexander Hogton, and John Talbot of Salesbury, Knts., were appointed arbitrators in the matter. The dispute was about "the right and tyle" to the possession of certain lands and other free rents of the chantry in Ribchester. The award was as follows:—"John Blackburne shall have halfe an acre of meadow lying betwixt the house of St. Saviour<sup>3</sup> and Chesterbrook and the crooked rodes lying in Ribchester Eyes;" and on John Blackburne producing his title deeds the free rent shall be awarded to him; Ellis Crombleholme was awarded "a toft, a barne, and 2 landes [?] of arable lands."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., 00.

<sup>2</sup> From "a paper booke sent me by my loving friend Mr. Christofer Towneley, of Lancashire, a painefull

gatherer and lover of antiquities. Thomas Talbott, Ano. Dm. 1658."

<sup>3</sup> Stydd Church.

<sup>4</sup> Hoghton MSS.

In 1492, John Boyes, of Ribchester, gave Elias Crokholme [Crombleholme], perpetual chaplain of the chantry founded in honour of the Blessed Mary the Virgin, a parcel of his land lying in an angle of the southern part of Bernard Park," and all his land "lying in Isabel Hole." Witness: Richard Lynnols, Robert de Ribchester, John Blackburne.<sup>1</sup>

The following is extracted from the Chartulary of Whalley Abbey. *Compotus fratri Robt. Edilston et Ric. Hill, Burch. de Whalley, anno dni. Johis Paslewe Abbatis, (1534.)*

*In firmarum.*

	£	s.	d.
Ribchester .....	00	02	01
Dutton .....	00	04	00

According to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Hen. VIII. (1534) the Rectory of Ribchester was worth: in Manse, with glebe and divers tenements belonging to the same, £8 5s. 10d. per annum; in Tithe of grain, £20; of wool and lamb, 20s.; of flax and hemp, 10s.; in small tithes, oblations, etc., as per Easter Roll, £8 13s. 8d.; Total, £31 9s. 8d.; Reprises, in Sinodals and procurations, 6s.; and worth clear, £39 9s. 6d. Hence the tenth, £3 18s. 11½d.

In 1541-2, Thomas, Bishop of Westminster, "beinge parson of the parish church of Ribchester, within the Countie Palantine of Lanc., and being lawfully possessed of the same parsonage did demyse, graunt and lett to ferme all the glebe lands, oblacons, tythes, and profettes belonging unto the same parsonage unto one Edward Claydon and Robert Hothersall, for a terme of certen yeres now ended," complained that in spite of the clauses in the lease whereby the lessees undertook "to kep upp the howses and hegges as also to keep savely the woodes," the said lessees had not only allowed the "howses and hegges" to decay, but had also destroyed a "great parte of the said woodes," and in addition refused to pay the rent due, amounting to £10. The Bishop therefore prayed for "the Kinges letters of Privey Seale." <sup>2</sup> Apparently the Bishop was unsuccessful in getting his wrongs redressed, for two years later (1543-4) he again applied for letters of privy seal to the Chancellor of the Duchy, Sir John Gage, K.G. In his pleading, the Bishop stated that Edward Claydon, of Ribchester, had bound himself in £20, to pay £10, presumably

<sup>1</sup> *Hoghton MSS.*

<sup>2</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, ix., B 20.

the amount of rent due; which sum the defendant refused to pay, "craftyly and ontruelye entendinge to defraude yor said Cempleynant."<sup>1</sup> In 1546-7, the King granted "to John, Bishop of Chester and his successors the advowsons, donations, presentations, etc." of the "Parsonships, Rectorships and Churches of Cottingham, co. York, and of Ribchester in the the Archdeaconry of Richmond, co. Lancaster," to be held of the King and his heirs "in pure and perpetual alms, and paying annually, £3 18s. 11½d."<sup>2</sup>

In 1548, the Commissioners of Edward VI. reported as follows on the Endowments, Tenants, and Rentals of the Chantry in the Parish church of Ribchester :

The mancon howse wth other edifices belongyng to the same scituate and beyng in the towne of Rybchestre worth by yere to be lette farm ..... xx<sup>d</sup>

It. one cloise called Hitchough nere adionyng to the sayme cont. by est. iij acres two cloises of arable lande called the bankhayes cont. by est v acres one cloyse of arable lande called Stoneyfurlonge cont. by est. ij acres one cloise called Wythen lache cont. by est. iij acres one cloise called Wooday cont. by est. vj acres one cloyse called the three acres cont. iij acres one cloyse pasture called preist medowe cont. by est. iij acr wherof belongyth to this Chauntrie but ij acr one cloise called Orley cont. by est. v acr the third pte of one cloyse called Atough w<sup>ch</sup> third pte conteynyth v acr and one cloyse called the croft conteynyng by estimac. one acr in all xxxv acr w<sup>ch</sup> is [in] thoccupacon of the sayde Incumbent worthe by yere to be lette ferme ..... lviijs viij<sup>d</sup>

The wyffe of Thomas Mychell holdyth ij peelles of lande conteynyng one rode lieng in the ffeildes of the saide towne nere Ribble water r et ..... vj<sup>d</sup>

The pasture of vj Catalles goynge in the pasture ther called Eyerley in thoccupacon of the saide Incumbent worth by yere ..... xiiij<sup>d</sup>

It. one pcell of grounde lyenge wthin the cloyse of Thomas Coppenholme cont. by est. ij rodes adionyng nere to the Steyde in the handes of the sayde Incumbent by yere ..... xviiij<sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, xiii., W 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Patent Roll*, M 29, v., 790.

It. the third pte of one tente lyenge in Ribchestre biforsayde in the occupacon of the said Incumbent by yere ..... v<sup>s</sup>

It. one grounde called Morchase lyeng ther in thandes and occupacon of the sayde preist woethe by yere ..... vj<sup>s</sup>

Wylliam Jenkyson holdyth one tente ther w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> and rentyth yerlie in the sayde termes equallie ..... v<sup>s</sup>

Wylliam holdyth one tente ther nere Avergate w<sup>th</sup> two closes cont. by est. iiij aer and one litle woode buttande agynst Nutberke cont. by est. one aer di rentynge yerlie e.t..... xj<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>

Robert Hayhurst holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in Rybchestre in the countie of Launcestre rentynge yerlie at the termes of ..... x<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>

The wyff of Thomas Talbot holdyth one peell of a Barne and one peell of land cont. by est. iij rode lieng in the said towne rentynge yerlie ..... ij<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>

Thomas Sharphulles holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> ther and rentyth yerlie in the said termes equallie ..... vij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

Rauf Sharphulles holdeth one tente w<sup>th</sup> a gardyne ther cont. by est. half one rode rentyng yerlie at the sayde termes equallie  
iiij<sup>s</sup> ja ob.

Richarde Holte holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in the sayde towne rentynge yerlie in the sayde termes equallie. xj<sup>s</sup> vij<sup>d</sup>

Willyam Talbot holdyth one cotage ther rentynge yerlie e.t iij<sup>s</sup>

Willyam Rathmell holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in the sayde town and rentyth yerlie in the sayde termes equallie ..... ij<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>

James Cowle holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in Dutton in the countie of Lancastre rentynge yerlie e.t. equallie xij<sup>s</sup> vij<sup>d</sup>

Robert Barker holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in the same towne rentynge yerlie e.t. equallie..... .. vj<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

Henry Clerke holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in Chippinge in the saide countie rentinge yerlie e.t. equallie.... xvj<sup>s</sup>

John Moore holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in the towne of Goosenarth in the sayde countie renting yerlie in the aforesaide termes equally ..... xj<sup>s</sup>

Robert Barnes holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>nce</sup> lyenge in the same towne of Goosenarth in the sayde countie and rentyth by yere at the sayde termes equallie ..... .. xj<sup>s</sup>

The wyff of Eleyz Dewhurst holdyth one tente w<sup>th</sup> thapptn<sup>ance</sup> ther and rentyth yerlie in the said termes equallie ..... vij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

The sayme wyffe holdyth ij butte of lande cont one Rode lyeng in the croftes ther buttand upon the yerde of Richarde Sharphulles rentinge yerlie e.t. .... iiij<sup>d</sup>

The wyff of Wylyyam fforest holdyth one tente with thapptn<sup>ance</sup> lyenge in the said towne rentynge yerlie and equallie e.t. ... viij<sup>s</sup>

Richard Blackborne for rent going furth of his landes ther by yere ..... xiiij<sup>d</sup>

Thomas Dewhurst holdyth one barnesteide w<sup>th</sup> ij rodes of lande lyeng in the towne biforsayde rentyng yerlie e.t. .... xiiij<sup>d</sup>

The same Thomas holdyth one parcel of lande lyeng in Rybchestre Eyes cont. by est. one rode rentyng yerly in the saide termes equallie ..... vj<sup>d</sup>

Olyu Hayhurst holdyth one peell of grounde cont half one rode lyeng in the baksyde of his tente ther rentynge yerlie e.t. equallie..... ij<sup>d</sup>

Sm<sup>a</sup> totall of the rentall..... xj<sup>l</sup> xx<sup>d</sup> ob.

Shortly after this report was received the King granted (1552) the possessions of the late Chantry to Thomas Reve, of London, gentleman; John Johnson, of London, "ffyshmonger"; and Henry Herdson, of London, "Skinner," for the sum of £1,572 1s. 5½d. Amongst the tenants mentioned in the grant is "the wife of Thomas Michell, late 'Cantanista' of the same late Chantry." Mention is also made of a rent of 2s. 6d., arising from part of the said late possessions, to be paid to "Robert Lundell"; and of a rent of 15s. 10d. due to "Peter Houghton Esquire."

"Geo. Wolset, Dr. of Laws, Parson of Ribchester," with the consent of the Bishop and Dean, "let to Chris. Parker" the glebe and demesne lands, tythes, etc., for 90 years; rent to be paid "to the Parson during his life, afterwards to y<sup>e</sup> Bishop." The Bishop bore all the charges, paying to the Vicar "such sune as shall be appointed;" the tenant repaired "the chancell and the mansion place, which shall belong to y<sup>e</sup> Vicar," and no great timber to be cut down except for necessary repairs.

In 4, Edward VI. (1550-1) John Talbot, junior, Esq., of Salesbury, "complained" about "one mansyon" in Dutton, "lately

<sup>1</sup> *Patent Roll*, M 24, vii., 832.



seised to the use of the King," and which was part of the possessions of the lately dissolved chantry in Ribchester church, and "in certen closes called Hichhaughe and Stonyfurlonge" also in Dutton, which had been leased to him by Humfrey Hatton, executor of George Grymisdiche, to whom the premises had been granted in 1548 for a term of 21 years. In his petition, John Talbot goes on to say "about seven weeks last paste one Sir Richard Sherburne, Kt., procured and caused dyvers and sundry persons to the number of x<sup>l</sup> persons to enter into the said two closes, claeymynge and pretending the same to be the inheritance [of] Sir Richard Sherburne." Thereupon ensued a struggle in which John Talbot was "clerely expulst and putt owt." And to make matters worse, Sir Richard Sherburne levied and "took to his own use the issues and proffittes" of the lands. An injunction was granted; but Sir Richard Sherburne replied that "Hugh Shyrburn, Esquyer, was lawfully seised in the said 2 closes of land;" and had let them to James Tarleton, Clerk, then Incumbent of the said late chantry, at a yearly rent of 4s. Sir Richard also claimed that the lands had descended to him, as grandson and heir of Hugh Sherburne, and that therefore the King had no right to grant the lands.<sup>1</sup> How the dispute ended we do not know.

In 1555-6, Sir John Parrot purchased these lands, which comprised two acres of land in the tenure of "Richard ffyelden," and four acres in the tenure of George Byrley, formerly assigned for the "maintenance of a Priest called the lady Priest in the Church of Rybchester."<sup>2</sup>

In 1559, John Daniell and Richard Ashe, "wardens of the parish church of Ribchester," petitioned about the same lands. The cause of complaint was that the churchwardens had been asked to pay "two severall rents for one thinge." In the course of their lengthy pleading they state that the lands in question were originally "appointed to the sustentacion menteneince and keepinge of one priest called our ladies priest in the church of

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Lanc. Pleadings*, J. T. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Sir John Parrot or Perrot, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and a

very distinguished soldier. "Hist. of that most eminent statesman, Sir John Perrot," London, MDCXXVIII,

Ribchester." The yearly value of the lands was vijs ; and "one Thomas Haughton, Esquire, nowe hathit."<sup>1</sup>

In 1579, "Alexander Houghton, of the Lee, and John Talbot of Salburie, Esquires," complained about the conduct of the sublessee of the Rectory of Ribchester. From their statement, which is extremely voluminous, it appears that in 2 Eliz. (1559), "George Wilfet, deceased, Doctor of Laws, and laite parson of the Rectorie and parsonage of Ribchester, and John, laite Bushoppe of Chester, then patron and Ordinarie of the Rectorie aforesaide, and William Cliffe, Clarke, Deane of the Cathedrall Church of Christ and oure ladie, Saint Marie in Chester, and the Chapter of the same were lawfullie seased in their demeane as of fee of and in the aforesaid rectory, with all the glebe lands, etc.;" and they "being so seased did by their Indenture bearinge date the twentithe day of Maye in the Second Yeare of the reigne of our sovereign ladie Queene Elizabeth" did lease the said rectory lards unto Christopher Parker, late of Rudam [Radholme] in Bollande, deceased, for a term of ninety years at a yearly rent of £39 15s. 6d., to be paid to the Rev. George Wolfitt during his life; and then to the Bishop of Chester and his successors, "at the Bushoppes Stalle within the Quere or Chauncell" of Chester Cathedral. The distress clause was inserted in the lease. In 22 Eliz. (1580), Christopher Parker sub-let a moiety of the rectory lands to "Robert Swinglehurst, of ffarocke Howse [Fair Oak], in Bollande, for the yearly rent of £19 17s. 9d. The plaintiffs then go on to say that they had purchased the interest of Robert Swinglehurst, "in the saide moytie and one hauffe" of the rectory lands "for the sum of four hundrethe markes;" and find that Alexander Parker, son of Christopher Parker, having possession of the original lease, etc., is "publyshing and setting forth" his intention to make default of payment, and so break the original lease. This object say the plaintiffs, is to get a new lease, to which they object, and accordingly pray for a writ of the Privy Seal. In the meantime John Sherburne, gent., obtained Alexander Parker's interest in the rectory lands. John Sherburne then replied, controverting the plaintiff's statements.<sup>2</sup> It will be

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. of Lanc. Pleadings*, viii., 1 D.

<sup>2</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, lxxvii., H 10.

noticed that the date of the original lease is stated to be 2 Eliz., (1559), whereas Canon Raines gives the date as 2 Ed. VI., (1549).<sup>1</sup>

In 1 Jas. I (1604), the church lands were let to "John Dewhurst and four more for 3 lives; the Bishop to find a Minister at his own cost."<sup>2</sup>

The stipend of the Vicar of Ribchester was very small, only 20 marks (£6 13s. 4d.), and at this low figure it seems to have remained for over one hundred years. In the *Baker MSS.* of the University Library, Cambridge, is the following, taken from an account of the See of Chester in May, 1619:—

"For the increase of the Bp's Yearly Revenue, whereas Ribchester Lease was to be renewed, and the Farmers had offered him 100<sup>lib</sup>: Fine, and (as some of the Inhabitant affirmed) would rather give him 1,000<sup>lib</sup>: Fine than go without it, there being only one aged life remaining in their Lease. He utterly refused to take any money for a new Lease thereof, but said he would (if ever it fell-in [in] his time) better the Vicarage thereof yearly (w<sup>ch</sup> is yet but twenty marks yearly), and would reserve the rent for succeeding B'pps: And thus he refused their Fine about 10: or 11: years, and when he grew sick and weak, fearing lest his successor might for private gains defeat his good Intention, he made means to the King to confirm it, who thereupon wrote his Letters to remain in Registry perpetually unto succession, for the reservation of it in Desmesne to the Bprick: in perpetuity."<sup>3</sup>

In 1633 the Bishop was ordered by the King never to renew this lease, and when fallen in to let it for no longer than the Bishop's life.

In 1629 occurred a rather remarkable incident, which is given in full.

"decimo sexto "By vertu of a Comission Directed from the right reverend  
die Augusti, father in god John by the pvidenc of god nowe lord Bushopp  
1629. of Chester vnto Cristofer Hindley Clerke vicar of Ribchester  
bearing date the xijth of August 1629: Conserringe the  
filliacon of a Bastard Chylde begotten by one John Rodes of Ribchester,  
milliner [*i.e.*, miller] vpon the body of Dorithie Helme of Ribchester afore-  
said. Thearfore by vertue of the sayd Comissio the said Cristofer Hindley

<sup>1</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, viii., 58, 59.

<sup>3</sup> *Pal. Note Book*, iii., 61.

<sup>2</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, viii., 59.

haith called him before him ffourteen sufficient discrette honest wyves; whoe vpon their sacred oathes taken & sworne, vpon the holy testament, doe saye that the sayd John Rodes is the trewe and lawfull father of the said basterd Chyld by all pbabillity [probability] and trewth wch they and ewy [every] of them can or hawe knowne or learned by or ffrom the sayd Dorithie Hellme.

“Whose oathes weare taken by the sayd autchritie the xvijth day of Auguste above writen before the sayd Cristor. Hindley and their names hearto subscrybed in the presents of vs viz:—

Imprimis Jur Ane vxor John Cottam

Jur Elizabeth vxor James Lingard

Jur Grace vxor John Cottam

Jur Alice vxor John Derwin

Jur ffrances vxor Edward Hothersall

Jur Margrett vxor Willm Sharples

Jur Alice vxor James Helme

Jur Mary vxor Tho: Walche

Jur Mary vx Tho: Bolton

Jur Agnes vx John Birley

Jur Elizabth vx Anthonie Hothersall

Jur Mary vx Jo: Bolton

Jur Elizabth Abbot *vidu*

Jur Elizabt vxor Edward Ecles

teste John Walmesly

teste John I. Romsbotham

Church Warden.

Chrophor

Hindley

“The sayd Bastard Chyld after the sayd Dorithie had taken her Corporall oathe and the wives concerning the true fatheringe of her said bastard: was Lawfullye offered & tendered vnto the sayd John Rodes: whoe obstinately & vtterly refuseth to take the sayd Bastard: according as the Lawe haith comanded him in yt case.

ita testor.

Chrophor

Hindley.

teste I John Romsbotham

Church Warden.”<sup>1</sup>

The Cromwellian Survey Commissioners reported as follows: the particulars given in detail are of value and interest:—

“The inappropriate Rectory and Parsonage of Ribchester, in the County of Lancaster, with all the tythes, lands, and hereditaments thereunto belonging, was in the 20th day of June, 1 James [1603] leased by Richard, then Bishop of Chester, unto John Dewhurst, of Dewhurst, in the County of Lancaster, gent.; John Sherburne,

Consistory Court Records, Chester.

of the same County, gent.; Henry Heyhurst, sonne and heire apparant of John Heyhurst, of Heyhurst, in Dutton, in the same County, gent.; Hugh Serle, of Chesbanke, within the Townshippe of Ribchester, within the said County, yeoman; Thomas Dudell, of Alston, in the said County, yeoman; and Ralph Ratcliffe, of Dilworth, in the said County, yeoman; excepting one tenement or cottage then in the occupation of the Vicar of Nextros, for the terms of three lives (viz.), the life of the said John Sherburne; William Dewhurst, sonne and heire of John Dewhurst, in the County of Lancaster, yeomen; and Thomas Cottam, sonne and heire of John Cottam, of Heyhouse, *also* Hayhouse, in Dilworth aforesaid, yeoman, and for the longest lives of them, yielding and payeing to the said Bishopp and his successors the yearly rent of Thirty-nine pounds, sixteene shillings, and sixpence, at the Nativity of John Baptist and the Nativity of our Lord, by equall portions. And for non-payment of rent after the space of two months (it being lawfully demanded), the Bishopp and his successors to re-enter. The Bishopp is to find a Minister there during the tyme at his owne charge. And alsoe, to free the tennants and inhabitants of the said Parrish from all subsidies, fifteenes, tenthes, Synodals, and procurations, and all taxes, lays, impositions, or payments which may any wayes become due by reason of the said Parsonage or Rectory, or any part thereof; And that the tenant shall have sufficient howsebook, ffirebook, ploughbook, and lodgebook in and upon the premises, for necessary reparation, maintenance, uphoulding, and fencing thereof. The Tennants to mayntayne the premisses, chauncell, etc., with hedging, fenceing, and ditching the same, and so to leave it at the end of the said tearme, and in the meane tyme to cutt downe no greate timber trees without lycence of the said Bishopp or his successors, except for necessary reparations of the premisses or some part thereof.

“The Improprate Rectory is now held by Richard Sherburne, of Stonyhurst, in the County of Lancaster, Esq., who is Lord of the Manor; there is one life in being only, viz., Mr. John Sherburne, aged seaventy-three yeares. There is, belonging to the Parsonage, a ffaire Parsonage house built with bricke, and one barne, about five bayes in good repair; there was another barne of about eight bayes, which is blowne downe about three years



agoe, and not yet built againe, most of the tymber lost.

“There belongeth to the Parsonage about one hundred acres of land, and about twenty acres of it is woodland, in which both tymber and underwood is much destroyed since these late troubles. The gleabe and house have beene worth in the best tymes sixty pounds per annum. There is also three Tenements and twelve Cottages more which belong to the said Parsonage and Rectory.

“There is belonging to the parrish ffive Townships, viz., Ribchester, Dilworth, Howston [Alston], Veeresee [Hothersall], and Dutton; the tythes of the said parrish have beene estimated worth Two hundred and fifty pound per annum, besides the gleabe and Tennants’ rents, but they are now held by the Tennants during the lease.

“The Minister hath power to ffish, so far as the gleabe land goeth, but there is not any benefit made of it.

“The Bishopp hath always allowed twenty marks per annum towards a Ministry out of the rent; they are at present without any Minister, only hire soe often as they can, and pay the Minister so farre as the twenty marks will goe, and make up the rent of theire owne purses. There was one Mr. Harley, Curate there, but was put out by the Committee of Divines in Lancashire for his insufficiency, and being scandalous in his life and conversation.”

The Particulars of the Gleabes and of the Tenements and Cottages as followeth upon the Racke.

	£	s.	d.
The herbage of the woodland to be worth per annum.....	04	: 00	: 00
One pasture of Gleabe, called Cow Close, consisting of eight acres, valued per annum .....	03	: 06	: 08
Another pasture, called greate Carr, consisting of tenne acres, valued per ann. ....	06	: 00	: 00
One close, called little Carr, consisting of five acres, valued per ann. ....	02	: 13	: 04
One close, called Curden Hey, consisting of twelve acres, valued per ann.....	06	: 10	: 00
One meadow, called great Meadow, consisting of six acres, valued per ann....	07	: 10	: 00
One close, called the Dogbotham, consisting of seaven acres, valued per ann.....	05	: 10	: 00
One close, called Horse Roane, consisting of three acres, valued per ann.....	03	: 05	: 00
One close, called Paratt, consisting of foure acres, valued per ann.....	02	: 10	: 00
	£41	: 05	: 00

One other close, called Marybone Close, conteynyng foure acres, valued per ann. ....	03 : 00 : 00
The waste about the Parsonage, estimated to be above seaven acres, valued per ann. ....	04 : 10 : 03
One close, called Witriding, by estimation foure acres, valued per ann. ....	04 : 00 : 00
Two closes, called Great Eyes and Litle Eyes, consisting of nyne acres, valued at per ann. ....	07 : 15 : 00
	<u>£19 : 05 : 00</u>
	<u>41 : 05 : 00</u>
<i>In toto</i> .....	<u>£60 : 10 : 00</u>

	Rent per ann.	Rack rent.
One Tenement in the occupation of John Seede, by estimation eleaven acres, and he payeth per ann. ....	00 : 16 : 04	06 : 13 : 04
One other Tenement, in the occupation of Edward Seede, estimated about eleaven acres, payeing per ann. ....	00 : 16 : 04	06 : 13 : 04
One Tenement, called Cutber Tenement, in the occupation of Elizabeth Cottam, estimated about eleaven acres per ann. ....	00 : 16 : 04	06 : 13 : 04
	<u>00 : 16 : 04</u>	<u>06 : 13 : 04</u>
		<u>£20 : 00 : 00</u>

## COTTAGES.

Richard Heyhurst, for Viccaridge ground where the Vicarage house stood, per ann. ....	00 : 01 : 00	00 : 06 : 01
Edmund Wood, one Cottage, payeing per ann. ....	00 : 02 : 00	00 : 10 : 00
John Berliffe de Francis Green, one cottage .....	00 : 09 : 04	01 : 00 : 00

Then follow cottages tenanted by Edward Heyhurst, Thomas Duehurst, Percival Duehurst, Richard Heyhurst, Thomas Boulton, Richard Cowell, Mrs. Brooke, Arthur Sowerbutts, Joseph Hanson, William Ribchester, Richard Norcrosse, George Reade, James Reade, Robert Mychell, Jeffrey Sharples, who paid among them £10 4s. 4d., making the total into £12 13s. 4d., the amount received from cottage property. "All the cottages have some garden, orchard, or small parcell of ground belonging to them; these pay no Herriots to the Lord but the rents at Midsomer and Christmas.

The Bishopp presents the Vicar, and hath alwaies allowed him as is before mentioned.

Total of the Gleabe .....	93 : 03 : 04
The Tymber that belongeth to the Parsonage of Ribchester, now growing in Carrewood.	
Thirty-one trees, valued at twenty shillings a tree .....	31 : 00 : 00
Eighty-one trees, valued at ten shillings per tree .....	40 : 10 : 00
Thirty-seaven trees, valued at seaven shillings per tree .....	12 : 19 : 00
Seaventy-nyne trees, valued at five shillings per tree .....	19 : 15 : 00
Ffoure trees valued at three shillings per tree .....	00 : 12 : 00
Twenty-nyne poles, valued at two shillings per pole .....	02 : 18 : 00

Thirty-six poles, valued at one shilling per pole .....	01 : 16 : 00
Eighty-eight poles, valued at sixpence per pole .....	02 : 04 : 00
	<hr/>
	£111 : 14 : 00

The Parsonage and Tennants houses are to have tymber for their repair out of the aforesaid wood.

The Survey having bin returned about three years, and the life then seaventy-three years of age.

Query, whether now alive.

The Rent of Thirty-nyne pound, Sixteen Shillings, and Sixpence

Is apportioned :—

To be sould with the lands .....	10 : 16 : 06
To remayne upon the tythes .....	29 : 00 : 00
	<hr/>
<i>In toto</i> .....	39 : 16 : 06

WILL WEBB, 1650, Dec. 11.

During the civil war, Ribchester church was the scene of notable disturbances, a full account of which is given in chapter iv. In 1661, the Rectory lands were let to John Tibboles<sup>1</sup> in trust for the Bishop of Chester and his family. In 1680, they were let to William Sergeant and Dr. Dove,<sup>2</sup> with the exception of one tenement, the surplice fees, the Easter roll, and tythes of Dutton township, which were given to the Vicar.

Subjoined are the Easter and Michaelmas dues and surplice fees for 1684, as recorded in the church books.

#### EASTER DUES FOR RIBCHESTER.

ffor every hous and back side threepence halfpenny

ffor a man and wife four pence

ffor every Communicant two pence

ffor every Plough a penny

ffor half a Plough an half penny

Eggs ever hous an half penny

To be paid to  
the Vicar.

And ye Master or Mistris or Dame of every Hous shall pay down ye sd two pence for every Communicant in their family to ye Vicar.

Michaelmas dues and other dues agreed upon as aforesaid by ye Vicar and ye Parishioners of Ribchester.

ffor every Pigg one shilling and sixpence

ffor half a Pigg nine pence

ffor every Calf five shillings

ffor half a Calf two shillings and sixpence

ffor every Lamb two shillings and sixpence

ffor a ffleece of Wool eight pence

ffor every Goose sixpence

ffor every Cow and Calf to the number of five two pence and then five make half a Calf and seven a whole and soe in the rest

To be paid to the  
Vicar.

ffor every ffoal a penny

ffor every swarm of Bees a penny

ffor every Barren Cow a penny

And in everything tythable seven make a whole and five a half

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Tibboles was appointed registrar of the Diocese of Chester, in 1662.

<sup>2</sup> Archdeacon of Richmond.



For every Marriage by Banns <sup>within a Parish</sup> two shillings:  
For every Clandestine Marriage six shillings & 8 pence  
For every Clandestine Christening and ~  
" Churcing one shilling of all persons.  
For every Burial whatever of the Parish of Ribchester  
whether in Church or Church Yard one shilling:

These Fees, Dues, & Perquisites were agreed up  
by the Vicar, the Gentlemen, and others whose names  
are hereunder written: Geo: Ogden Vicar of Ribchester

are hereunder written: 1684

Tho: Hetherall

Sam: Naden

Geo: Wadley

Rich: Hippox

Thos: Brownlee

J: Wadley



Note, that the Party concealing any of these things shall pay double for the thing so concealed  
And that Pigg and Goose may be taken in money or in kind, whether ye Vicar pleases

### SURPLICE FEES.

For every Christening on Sundays at the time appointed by the Rubrick, nothing

for a Christening at Church on a week day, a shilling

for every Christening in the Church if not at the time appointed by the Rubrick, a shilling

for every Christening at the Parents hous or elsewhere by the Vicar or his Deputy out of the Church (if the child be not sick), a reasonable reward

for every Churching if at the time appointed by the Rubrick, four pence

for every Churching out of the Church, or in the Church if not at the time appointed by the Rubrick, one shilling

for every Marriage by Banes two shillings, within the Parish

for every Clandestine Marriage six shillings and 8 pence

for every Clandestine Christening and Churching one shilling of all perswasions

for every Buryal whatever of the Parish of Ribchester whether in Church or Church Yard, one shilling

These fees, Dues, and Perquisites were agreed upon by the Vicar, the Gentlemen, and others whose names are hereunder written

Witness our hands, 1684

Tho : Hothersall

Edm Naden

Jo. Ward

Rich : Carter

his mark

Will Norcrosse

Richard Wilkinson

W. Dewhurst

George Harrison

Richard Barlow

Wm. Peele

Geo : Ogden Vicar of Ribchester

Rich : Kippax

Cur't

Jam. Norcrosse

Richard Willson

Ab. Townley

J. Townley

Tho. Bleasdale

George Ratcliffe

James Lund

In 1706, the lease was made to Robert Callys "after a fine post in court, and trust delivered up by Dr. Thane, upon consideration of £210 fine to the Bishop."<sup>1</sup>

Bishop Gastrell states that the annual value of the Rectory in 1706, was £38 19s. 1d.; of which £13 6s. 8d. went to the Bishop of Chester. The tithes of hay and corn in Dutton produced £13 0s. 5d.; small tithes and Easter dues, £9 12s. 0d.; and surplice fees, £3.

Gastrell also states there was "reserved by indenture £5 6s. 8d. for a Priest serving within the church of Ribchester."<sup>2</sup> In 1725 the lease of the Rectory lands was let to John Cooper.

<sup>1</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, viii., 59.

<sup>2</sup> *Chetham Soc.*, xxii., 471.

In 1818, Ribchester was returned as a Vicarage, the value of the living being £140 15s. 1d.; the chapel of Stydd being returned as "annexed to Ribchester." The present value of the living (which is termed the Rectory of Ribchester and the Vicarage of Stydd) is returned at £300, with a residence. The tithes are valued at £198 10s. 0d.

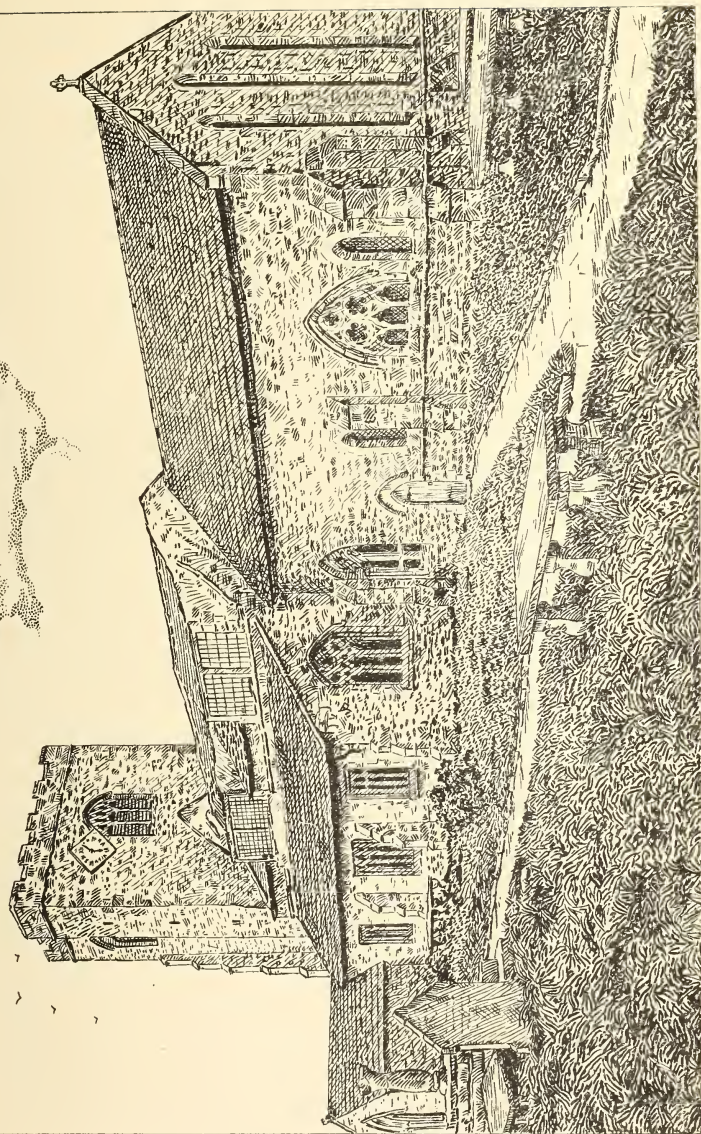
### THE FABRIC.

No apology is necessary for my reproducing the excellent architectural description of Ribchester Church written by Mr. W. A. Waddington in his *Sketches on the Calder and Ribble*.

"The Church, dedicated to St. Wilfrid, is parallel in point of antiquity with the present Church of Whalley; the greater changes too were effected about the same time. The Chancel is Early English of about the year 1220, and still retains its eastern lancet lights. The inner Porch door is one of the finest specimens of this style in the district, and is in an excellent state of preservation. There is an Ancient Chapel forming a distinct aisle to the north, its present most remarkable features are the really beautiful windows, which display the wonderful traceried forms and richness of detail of the Decorated Period at the time of Edward III. The Tower as usual is perpendicular in style, its Belfry windows being varied by the introduction of an additional mullion; many of the other windows are insertions of different dates, and strangely enough in choosing the style for the handsome windows recently erected in the south aisle, no attempt has been made to equalize this disparity. The dormer windows on the Nave roof are certainly very rude, but exhibit one of those 'accidental ideas' which, if skilfully developed, is capable of picturesque effect."

Prior to 1666, we know little or nothing of the Fabric of the Church. From the churchwardens accounts the following items are extracted:—

	£	s.	d.
1666			
Sept. 4 To Edward Osbaldeston for making of plaister and for pointing the Steeple, being 7 dayes work .....	0	7	0
for helpe to get the ladder, and for to lay up the falling stones betwixt the Church and the Chancel .....	0	0	4
1666-7 To Richard Pemberton [Blacksmith] for generall things don for ye Church.....	0	5	11



J. Miller, Lith., Preston.

RIBCHESTER CHURCH. S.E. VIEW





1668	Payd to Richard Pemberton ye Smyth as will appeare by his booke, and for the use of the Church .....	1	1	2
	Payd to Thomas Lambshey the plummer for cutting the leades and other work thereunto belonging .....	4	2	10
	For lead and carriage .....	3	12	0
1669	Spent when we met the plumer, and gave him an earring, and made ye bargaine with him .....	0	3	0
	Spent upon 12 or 13 men to help up with the leades unto ye top of the steeples .....	0	4	0
	Paid Henry Newsome for mossing and mending 5 roodes, and 4 yards of old slate.....	0	17	0
	Spent on ye slaters at severall tymes when wee attended on them to see the work well done .....	0	2	6
1670	Payd to Rich. Ryding for wall part of the church yard wall, and pointing all the said wall round about. aud laying on ye battlents stones, and pointing pt of ye steeple .....	2	10	0
	To the glacier, and for attendance .....	0	8	6
	For painting of the glass 5 dayes .....	0	5	0
1679	Paid for mending and mossing ye Church .....	0	14	4
1680	Pd to Hugh Seed for 36 Skue? stones for ye steeple windas ..	0	10	6
	Paid for one loade of Slate .....	0	0	11
	Paid to Edward Seed and James Sharples for greatinge and setinge ye said stones.....	0	9	4
	Paid to James Mellinge for glasse and setinge up for ye church Windes .....	0	15	0
1684	Spent 29 of May for ye gentlemen and 24 men and ourselves when viude the church for repairs .....	0	9	0
1685	For Beautifying the Church .....	3	10	0
	Spent on our Parishioners when the Church was set to be Beautified.....	0	7	0
	Paid and spent in attending ye beautifiers with lathers and other instruments for one whole month .....	0	8	4
1686	p' to George Rawekliffe for 19 days work and goeing with Thomas Hille to buy timber, stone, steps, and spent ... ..	1	1	8
	pd to Willm Dewhurst for stones and mortar corners, throughs, and nailes.....	1	6	1
	pd to ye masons for hewne work and for waiting and getting stones .....	3	3	10
	Spent on ye masons when ye got ye stones in Ribble, and given in tobacco.....	0	2	7
	Paid for nyne load of lyme .....	0	8	3
	Paid to Lawrence Cottam for leading ye hewn work from Lum Mills .....	0	6	0
	Paid for glasse at Ribchester and Longridge .....	0	16	4
	Pa'd to Edward Eccles for 3 irne [iron] bars .....	0	15	10
	Pd to Christopher Towles for Slitte Dails .....	0	12	6
1706	Spent a viewing the wall joyning to Dutton Quire.....	0	2	0
	ffor putting out our ashes in the wall .....	0	1	0
	ffor 15lb, lead for the Pulpit window and fixing it.....	0	3	0



	Spent when the church was set to whiten .....	0	5	0
	60lb. of Spanish white and carriage .....	0	3	6
1711	for beautifying the church .....	3	0	0
	for laying 160 yards of flags at 4d. per yard.....	2	13	4
	Paid Robert Seed for slating over Sir Charles Quire (the Hoghton choir).....	0	1	0
1722	For 80 feet of new glass .....	0	13	4
1728	for repairing ye church wall and cross .....	1	2	6
1733	Jon Entwistle for oak boards for ye steeple.....	1	1	7
	To ye plumer for worke and lead .....	5	2	4
1750	Pd Jno Hall concerning leads.....	9	18	6
1762	To 65 yards of flaggs to James Pye .....	3	5	0
	To Robert Gornall for 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Iron .....	0	2	8

For over a hundred years the fabric of the church underwent no repairs of any great extent. In 1881-2 the chancel was restored and put into thorough repair by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and "the Rector and Parish restored the Chancel-Arch" at the same time. Heating apparatus was also supplied at the cost of the Parish and Jonathan Openshaw, Esq.

#### THE DUTTON AND HOGHTON CHOIRS.

These choirs, chapels, or chantries are on the north and south sides respectively of the church. They were both founded by the Hoghtons, as we have seen. After the Reformation the Dutton choir seems to have belonged to the Hoghtons and the Townleys of Dutton. The portion belonging to the Hoghtons was sold, says Canon Raines, to Mr. Rothwell. "In 1729, Richard Townley of Belfield, sold to John Riley the middle part of Dutton choir, being a seat therein, five feet square, reserving power to pass and repass to other parts of the said choir, not thereby granted."<sup>1</sup> In 1800, William Pye, gent., disposed of the seat by his will. It is now claimed by the representatives of Mrs. Alston of Ribchester. But Mr. Dobson points out that in 1856 Richard Towneley of Belfield, sold the other portion of the choir to James Bolton of Preston, from whom it passed to the Walmsleys of Showley, and from them to George Barton and Christopher Alston.<sup>2</sup> That some misunderstanding prevails as to the ownership of the Dutton choir is clear from the following resolution extracted from the Churchwardens' Account Book :—

As to the temporary and necessary repairs of the North Chapel, or Chantry, or Side Chapel, the Rector and Churchwardens here record that

<sup>1</sup> *Chet. Soc.*, xxii., 473.

<sup>2</sup> *Rambles by the Ribble*, ii., 108.

in allowing James Fenton, Esq., to do the said repairs they neither admit nor deny Mr. Fenton's rights or claims, but for their own protection and that of the Parishioners they do here state the said repairs are to be without prejudice to any claim or right on either or any side and not to be considered or taken as any evidence of repair by or for on behalf of any person or persons whatsoever. 15th August, 1882. F. E. Perrin, Rector.

Into the merits of this question we do not propose to enter. We merely say that Mr. Fenton, as Lord of the Manor, is generally considered to be the rightful owner. The Hoghton choir, on the south side, also belongs to Mr. Fenton.

### THE INTERIOR.

The interior of the church possesses but few objects of interest. An ancient altar and piscina are to be seen in the Dutton choir; "the arches which divide the choir from the nave are," says Mr. Waddington, "coeval with its general features."<sup>1</sup> An oaken screen once occupied the chancel archway; "the tympanum of the arch was fitted with a rude painting of the Royal Arms" (see accounts 1707-8) "of the time of Queen Anne, and on the east side was a large hagioscope or squint. The painting is now (1869) preserved in the church, and it is much to be regretted that the praiseworthy spirit which prompted its preservation did not extend its conservative influence to the screen itself, and the many specimens of ancient woodwork which must have existed prior to the substitution of the vile caricatures of church furniture which crowd the edifice." We regret to say that the "praiseworthy spirit," which animated the restorers of the church prior to 1869, was wanting in the last restoration, as the painting of the Royal Arms has disappeared.

The roof of the nave is of peculiar construction, "of about the year 1500" (the figures 1527 being cut on one of the beams); while that of the chancel is of plain oak. The pulpit is hexagonal in shape, and made of dark oak. It is elaborately carved with "the spiritless ornaments" of the time of Charles I., and has the monogram C. H. (Christopher Hindle, then vicar), and the date 1636 cut on one side. The pews are old-fashioned and mostly open. The font which stands close to the south-west entrance is of an extremely plain character, and the stone of which it is built is disfigured with paint.

<sup>1</sup>*Sketches on Calder and Ribble,*

## CHURCH FURNITURE.

		£	s.	d.
1666	Aug. 26. for mending of the church streete and the partition behind the church and the bell house .....	0	1	0
	for 5 quarters of Scotch cloath for two napkins .....	0	2	0
	Spent the same day .....	0	0	4
	Disbursed unto Tho. Cutler for oyle, spiking, and pack thread. ....	0	2	0
1667	Nov. 5. for a Joynd beare .....	0	14	0
	for one Blacke cloath to co' the Beare .....	1	8	0
	for a forme to set little children on when they come to bee buried .....	0	1	4
	To Tho: Cutler for oyle, paper, and othr things .....	0	2	6
	for the makeing of the cloath for the beare .....	0	0	8
1668	July 13. payd for one spade for the church use .....	00	02	00
1669	paid to Willm. Dilworth for making the church style, and in mending of formes and gates of ye church .....	00	13	0
	Spent att the setting up of the church style upon the helpers... ..	00	9	0
1672	payd to Will. Dewhurst for a Lock and a Key .....	0	1	0
	pa'd at Chippin to ye Comissary Court for an order for ye cheast in ye church for want of 3 lockes .....	0	05	4
1674	disbursed for serge for ye pulpit, Bobs, thread tape and tajliors wages .....	0	05	9
	for mending of ye geate in ye pulpitt .....	0	00	4
1675	May 10. payd to Mr. Haggate concerning ye boxes for collecting money for ye poore and charges att that tyme.....	0	05	0
	Spent when ye great Bible was sent from London.....	0	12	0
	payd to Willm. Dewhurst for his expence att London wth Mr. Henry Hothersall .....	0	5	0
1676	To Henry Seede for covering ye great Bible .....	00	00	08
1677	Aug. 10. Spent at meeting upon some of the 24 about making a seat in ye Church for ye Churchwardens .....	00	04	10
	Aug. 26. To Richard Pemberton for mending the dyall and making links for ye Church yate .....	00	01	00
	Pd for exchangeinge ye Church powder.....	00	02	03
1678	paid for a booke of prayers at ye prayer day Appointed by ye King .....	00	00	10
	paid for a booke of Homilies and one other booke of Common prayer .....	01	08	00
1679	paid for a new geate in ye reding deske and for ridding of ye grounde worke .....	00	01	00
	for mending ye russe of ye Church .....	00	0j	06
1680	paid to William Dewhurst for ye bear cloath .....	01	00	08
	paid for silke tape and thread and maiking ye said cloathe .....	00	01	10
1681	for ye church plate scouring .....	00	00	06
1683	paid for a Book of Cannons.....	00	01	00
	paid for matts for ye Comunion Table .....	00	04	00
1684	paid for a new church steele .....	00	03	06
	paid for a wiscate .....	00	00	05
1687-8	paid for hanging the litle church doore and a prayer booke for ye Queene .....	00	01	09

	pd to Richard Carter for ye hackhome and mending ye Church bottles .....	00 00 10
1688-9	Bought and paid for the Serplice .....	01 13 04
1692-3	paid to William Dewhurst for the Beer Cloath and other things paid for 3 beesames .....	01 16 07 00 00 03
	paid for a booke of articles, proclamations, and prayer bookes...	00 03 00
1707-8	pd when bargained for drawing ye Queen's Arms, the Creede, and Lord's Prayer and tenn Commandments .....	00 02 00
	pd to Mr. Ellinson in part for ye Queen's Arms, etc.....	01 13 00
	pd him more .....	01 14 00
	paid for hearse cloth .....	01 10 04
1708-9	pd for a table of degrees and a bord for fixing ye same on .....	00 01 02
1711-12	pd to ye apparitor for ye Book of Inquiry .....	00 01 00
1719-20	For making ye new Surplice .....	00 10 00
1724-5	pd Ed. Entwistle for a new herse cloth... ..	01 09 01½
1732-3	To Mr. Atherton for a new hers cloth ... ..	01 10 01
1734-5	A Whip for ye dogg's .....	00 00 06
1735-6	Paid ye joyner for ye new pew .....	02 03 00

### THE SINGING GALLERY.

“The original ffaculty of which this is a true Cooppy of the Grant ffor erecting a gallery at the West End of the Parish Church of Ribchester, etc. To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come be seen or in any wise appertain, William Stratford doctor of Law Commisary in and thorought the whole archdeaconry of Richmond in the diocess of Chester lawfully constituted, Sendeth greeting. Whereas it hath been certified unto us under the hands of the Reverend Thomas Johnson, Clerk Vicar of the Parish Church of Ribchester in the County of Lancaster and archdeaconry aforesaid. John Alston, Robert Rhodes, John Dobson, John Kay, and Matthew Ellison Churchwardens of the said parish. That a Gallery with seats therein for the use of the Singers of Psalms may be very conveniently erected at the West End of the said Church next the Bellfrey to enter in a direct line from the North side to the South eight yards wanting Two inches and in breadth from the back to the front seven ffeet and in height from the ground to the basis thereof eight feet with convenient stairs leading to the said intended Gallery to begin in the Bellfrey, and to be carryed on with a streight drift to the back of the gallery and to contain in breadth one yard and three inches and that the erection of the said gallery with seats therein together with Stairs leading thereto of the situation and dimensions aforesaid will not be any damage to the ffabrick of the said

church or prejudicial to any of the parishioners of the said parish and whereas the said Vicar and Churchwardens have petitioned us to grant them our license and authority to erect a Gallery with Seats therein together with convenient stairs leading thereto in the place above described at the expense of the Parishioners of the said parish for the purpose aforesaid. We therefore the said Commisary having duly considered the Importance of the said petition, Do by these presents grant to them the said Thomas Johnson, John Alston, Robert Rhodes, John Dobson, John Kay, and Matthew Ellison our License and Authority to erect a Gallery with seats therein together with convenient stairs as a passage to the said intended Gallery in the place above described according to the dimensions and for the Uses aforesaid at the Expense of the Parishioners aforesaid the Right and Jurisdiction of the ordinary allways saved and reserved. Given under the seal of our office the twenty-seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Heblethwait

Deputy Register."

1736-7	Allowed for the Gallery .....	07	01	08
1739-40	Bought Holland as appears by Mr. Peder's bill.....	02	09	03
1742	Nov. 22. Roger Coop for painting Two Cherubims upon two Pannalls on ye Singing Pew .....	00	05	00
1742-3	For two alms boxes to Robt Ward .....	00	01	06
	For an almonick for the Vestry .....	00	00	04
1749-50	To Tho Eastham for whip .....	00	00	06
	George Hearst a coat.....	00	10	00
1752-3	A New Bier Cloth.....	01	16	06
1754-5	for Irish Cloth to mend Surplice with .....	00	00	01½
1765-6	To Thos Eastman for whip lash .....	00	00	04
1771	To 12 yds of fine Irish cloth at 2s. 6d. ....	1	5	0
	To Thread and Buttons .....	0	0	8
	To making Surplice .....	0	10	0
	To necking old surplice.....	0	2	0
	Recd for old surplice 4s. 6d.			
1772	To a new Bible .....	2	5	6
	New register .....	2	10	8
	Carriage of Old Bible and Register .....	0	0	4
	Recd for old church Bible £0 15s. 0d.			
1777	To John Singleton for cleaning Candlesticks .....	0	2	6
1781	A cushion for reading desk .....	0	1	6
1783	Paid Mr. Ainsworth for License.....	0	6	0
	Ditto for a Marriage Register.....	0	10	0
	To a Closet for Surplice .....	0	9	6



1784	To 6 glass bottles .....	0	2	0
	To a Stone pillar, etc.....	0	16	0
	To James Norcrosse for repairing Seats in the Church.....	1	18	3
	Received from Docter Whitacre for a seat in Church <sup>1</sup> .....	0	2	6
1785	To 13 yds of Irish Cloth at 2s. 10d. per yard .....	1	16	10
	John Srigley's Bill for painting church .....	3	13	0
	To Mr. James Pye for flaggs and carriage .....	1	15	0
1787	To Wine for private Sacrament .....	0	7	0
1791	Received for pew of Josh Walton 2s. 6d. Received for pew of Richd Dewhurst 7s. 0d.			
1792	To Corks and washing wine bottles .....	0	0	6
	To a new surplice at 2s. and 4d. per yard.....	1	10	4
	Marriage Register.....	0	8	6
1793	Receive for Roof money £0 7s. 0d.			
1794	Taking iron moulds out of surplice .....	0	1	0
	Prayer Book .....	1	1	0
1795	To strings for new Prayer Book.....	0	0	3
1796	To a Prayer Book for Clerk.....	0	12	0
	To Mrs Alston for a bottle of wine for private sacrament .....	0	3	4
1798	Book of articles and Form of Prayer.....	0	4	0
1801	Washing the Bier cloth and green cloth for Communion table..	0	1	6
	Beesoms and brush .....	0	3	7½
1802	Green Cloth for Reading Desk .....	0	2	6
	Joiner's Bill for making forums, repairing reading desk, gate, etc	7	1	6
1803	14 yds of cloth for Surplice at 3s. 6d. per yard .....	2	9	0
	Rich Holden for straw and carriage .....	0	10	0
	Fender, tongs and Poker for the Vestry .....	0	7	5
	Mrs Relph for making surplice <sup>2</sup> .....	0	15	0
	Mrs Relph for washing Surplice 5 times at 1s. 6d.....	0	7	6
1804	Washing Table cloth and Napkin twice each .....	0	1	4
	New Seats .....	75	9	0
1823	Book for Publication of banns of Marriages according to Act of Parliament .....	0	8	0
1871	Mr. Tiplady for banns of Marriage book .....	0	14	6
1873	Amount received for Drones found in the Church yard, £1			
1883	Inventory of Church Furniture :			

One crimson Altar Cloth

One Linen Altar Cloth

One Linen Napkin

One Bible	} Presented by Mr. Henry Hoyle Mr. Calderwood.
Two Altar Services	
One Small Bible	
A small Brass Lectern	

An Alms Dish.....The Bishop of Manchester.

## THE SINGERS.

The references to the choir are not numerous :—

1733	To ye singers of Blackburn .....	0	0	9
1771	Singers on the 5th of Novr .....	0	2	6

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. T. D. Whitaker, LL.D.<sup>2</sup>Wife of the Vicar of Ribchester.

	Coals, 1s. 2d.; Powder, 1s. 4d. ....	0	2	6
1773	To two Hautboys .....	1	1	0
	To mending, and new Bazoon.....	2	17	0
1780	To repairing Bazoon .....	0	3	0
1798	Joseph Walton for Reeds.....	0	3	0
1801	Viloncello .....	5	5	0
	Do. Case .....	0	12	0
	Do. Carriage from London ....	0	5	0
	Do. Do. from Preston .....	0	1	0
1822	Paid for liquor when Longridge singers came to Ribchester .....	1	0	0

The choir is a mixed one, and occupies the old gallery erected in 1736.

### THE BELLS AND CLOCKS.

The earliest record of the existence of Bells in Ribchester Church is in 1650; but there can be no doubt that there were bells in the church long before this.

The Commissioners of Edward VI., in their return of goods at "the Chauntrie in the p'orche Church of Ribchestre," said "Plate, None." At the "chapel of Longryge, Syr Robt. Cottom p'st and John Tomlynson chyrch reve" deposed "that there ys one belle yett remaynige at y<sup>e</sup> said chapell." The Bell was valued at vj's vjd, and weighed fifty pounds. Canon Raines points out "that many of the chantries are returned as being without plate or ornaments, and yet in all there must have been a chalice and paten, a missal and an alb, but in various instances these were concealed and withheld."<sup>1</sup> Of ornaments we find Longridge chapel possessed one chalice of silver weighing 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  ounces, valued at twelve pence.

Probably this was the case at Ribchester, which at this time had one of the most richly endowed chantries in the county. One "ornament" Ribchester had; land being given "to the fyndinge of a Lampe in the p'ish church there but whether the same was geven to have contynuanee for ever we know not; of the yerely value of . . . vijs." The Bells are mentioned in the first year's (1666) accounts of which any record remains: and seem to have been a constant trouble to the "gentlemen," judging by the amount of money spent upon them. Doubtless the tower of the church had been damaged during the civil war, when Ribchester was the scene of more than one skirmish; and for ten

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Chantries*, i., xxiv.

years workmen seem to have been busy with the bells. Mr. Marsh appears to have had a good deal to do with them, and we think it is probable that Jackson and Marsh, of Wigan, were the casters of the Ribchester Church bells. Mr. Sinclair has given a very interesting account of the "lost trade" of bell-casting at Wigan.<sup>1</sup>

The more interesting items of expenditure are given in chronological order.

1666	Aug. 26.	Laid out for three bell strings .....	0	15	0
		Spent the same day .....	0	0	6
1667		for mending of the bell wheeles .....	0	1	0
		for a swine skin to mend ye bells wthall .....	0	0	6
1668		payd to Rich Cowell for woode towards making of the bell wheeles.....	0	7	6
		payd to Willm and Rich. Dillworth for goeing to Preston to view ye bell wheeles.....	0	2	0
		payd to Tho Yeates far three pieces of woode to bee spoakes for the bell wheeles, and for a gange of old spoakes to bee gins for the slate .....	0	4	4
		payd to Willm Dilworth for the worke of Sixty [days] in Making 3 whole Bell wheeles and making a . . . . frame for lifting the leades, and other necessaryes about ye church ..	3	4	0
		payd to Tho Cutler for candles for to work by for the Car- pentere, and for nayles for the Bell wheeles.....	0	3	11
1668		payd to Roger Dewhurst for helping ye plumer ..	0	2	6
		payed to Henry Hayhurst for 4 trees bought of him by Willm. Dilworth, and James Lunde for, and towards ye bellwheeles, and for Lats, and for Loading ye said trees .....	2	8	0
		for mending cotters, bits, and wedges .....	0	2	0
		payd to Mr. Talbot for ollder wood for shields.....	0	6	0
1670-1	April 12,	payd to Rich. Peniberton for smithwork about ye bells .....	0	4	0
1676		Spent when ye great bell clapper was peececd and for ye workmanship.....	0	5	0
		Spent on Mr. Marsh and others when he came to sorte ye wood for ye Bell frames .....	0	11	0
		Spent at ye first ringing of ye Bells .....	0	3	0
1683		for mending ye chappel bells.....	0	3	6
1702		paid Leo Boys for a hogg's skin .....	0	2	0
1719-20		Assistance for taking up the Middle bell twice .....	0	3	0
1793		To Robert Railton for hanging great Bell .....	2	6	6
		To       ,,       for stay for great Bell.....	0	4	2
		To Robert Railton hanging great Bell a second time....	2	1	6

<sup>1</sup>Sinclair's *Wigan*, i., 204-6.

To William Harrison for hanging great Bell first time.....	4	4	0
To Harrison for hanging two bells as per Bargain.....	10	0	0
Deducted off Bell founders' Bill .....	4	15	2

In 1822 the present peel of six bells was hung. They were cast by Mr. Mears, Whitechapel, London; and are a fine specimen of the campanologist's art. It is not a little remarkable that the cost was provided by a church rate, and that no opposition was offered by any non-church going ratepayers. Evidently all were proud of their old Parish Church. From the Account Book it appears that the cost of the bells was £245, irrespective of the fixing charges. Some of these I append:—

	£	s.	d.
1821-2 Three oak trees from Mr. Richd. Parkinson .....	19	3	7½
Carriage of do., 15s. 9d.; breaking up do. at Preston, £25s. 1d.	3	0	10
Paid Mr. James Foreman for hanging the Bells.....	17	7	0
Paid Rev. Jas. Quartley for Timber .....	3	5	9
Paid John Roberts for altering soundholes, repairing walls, etc.	1	4	0
Paid Carr. of Bells from Liverpool to Blackburn .....	2	0	4
Paid Carr. of do. from Blackburn to Ribchester, Turnpikes, etc.	0	13	6

A miscellaneous item is added:—

1825-6 Hog's lard for the use of the Bells.....	0	2	0
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### THE CLOCK.

Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered that the Churchwardens shall finde oyle for the Clock and bells, and to look to, and take care y<sup>t</sup> they bee kept in good form, and order.

Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered by the xxiiij of this parish, y<sup>t</sup> the Clerke shall tent the clocke and shall have payd unto him yeerely for his paines and care herin 0 v<sup>s</sup> 0

1669	payd to the Clerke for tenting ye clock <sup>1</sup> .....	0	5	0
1670	payd to Willm. Dewhurst, shopkeeper, for dressing of ye clocke	0	2	4
1671	payd for one rope for clock .....	0	2	0
1671-2	payd to John Jenkinson for making of two plummes for ye clocke and for ye tying of ym .....	0	2	6
1672	payd for drawing ye figures and varnishing of ye same of ye clock .....	0	1	6
1719-20	Spent on Peter Howorth (?) when he set up the clock.....	0	1	6

In 1813 the present handsome clock was placed in the tower. The following are the items referring to it in the Churchwardens' Account Book:—

<sup>1</sup> This entry occurs year after year.

	£	s.	d.
1813-14 New Turret Clock, £70; fixing up, £8, p. Mr. Alker .....	78	0	0
Clock frame and Bevel wheels.....	2	0	0
Clock face covering with lead and painting .....	5	19	2
Clock face on the outside, per Edwd. Hesmondhalgh .....	2	15	6
Iron work for the clock, per Richard Rogerson .....	2	15	6
Carriage of the clock from Wigan .....	3	10	0
Carriage of the clock faces from Preston .....	0	10	0
Mr. Robinson, wood merchant, of Preston, for wood.....	12	13	3
Richard Ashworth's bill for allowances of Beer for Workmen..	0	19	4
Paid Lawe Walton for Workmen drilling a hole through the Steeple .....	0	8	0
p'd Joiner's Bill, per Edward Hesmondhalgh.....	8	15	0

The cost was raised by "forty-three fifteenths." The maker of the clock was Mr. Alker, of Wigan. What became of the old clock we do not know; the account book simply says that 2s. 6d. was paid in 1814-15 for the cost of its carriage to Preston. In 1822-3 occurs the following entry:—"Henry Wilkinson repairing church clock, broken by G. Boothman, 15s. 0d." Also we find that, in 1823, "two journeys to Goosnargh to fetch Mr. Thos. Banks to regulate and repair the clock, per Mr. Gregson," cost 4s. 0d.

### THE BELL RINGERS.

As the sexton had his "coat" and "whip," so the ringers had their "gloves" provided at the expense of the parish. The following resolution is the first reference we have found relating to the ringers:—

April 16th, 1650.

It [is] agreed this day at a Meeting of y<sup>e</sup> Gentlemen and 24 men of this pish, *videlet* that Willm Carter, Ather Dewhurst and Thomas Cuttler shall have for ringing upon the Sabbath day and for Church service and all other times When y<sup>e</sup> p'ishoners shall have occasion, for pay: Six payer of gloves about y<sup>e</sup> prise of sixpence a payer yearly to be bought by the Churchwardens at y<sup>e</sup> charge of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> pish.

Richd. Walton  
Ellis Hesmondhalgh  
George Ratcliffe  
Richard Leming  
James Lund

Tho. Hothersall  
Abrah. Townley  
Edm. Naden  
Jams. Norcrosse  
Ric. Barlow

For ringing on the 5th November the ringers received 6s. 8d.  
April 16th, 1650.



It is ordered by the xxiiij of this parish that the p'sons y<sup>t</sup> do ringe on November the fift shall have allowed vi<sup>s</sup>—viiij<sup>d</sup>

RINGING ANNALS, VICTORIES, ROYAL  
BIRTHDAYS, Etc.

It was the custom at Ribchester Church to ring the "Curfew" Bell at four in the morning, and at eight (as it is at the present time) in the evening, every day from All Hallow's Day to Lady Day. It is called the "Curfew" Bell; but the Rev. J. C. Cox inclines to the opinion that the former custom is a relic of early mass, which, before the Reformation, was sung at that early hour.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest mention of the "Curfew" Bell is as follows:—  
Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered by the xxiiij y<sup>t</sup> Corfewe shall bee runge duly [and] orderly, viz.: att eighte of the clocke att night and fower of the clock in the morning, and to begin att All Hallows Day being the first of Novem[ber] and to continue till the 25th of March next following, and a man [to] bee hyred by y<sup>e</sup> Clerke, and y<sup>e</sup> Churchwarden of Ribchester for . . . . sar . . . . thereof, and to have for the same.....xx<sup>s</sup>. . . . want of p'formance of this duty . . . . eight or foure every [day] and orderly as above said during the time shall abate for such Due order, or neglect out of his wages for every time four-pence and the clerke and the churchwarden of Ribchester are too see this order duly observed and kept.

The next resolution has reference to the Saint's Bell, or Handbell.<sup>2</sup>

Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered by the xxiiij of this parish y<sup>t</sup> the handbell shall [be] kept in the hands of Willm. Hayhurst of Ribchester till contrary.

Its use here is not clear, except it was for summoning the "gentlemen" to meetings, and the like. The bells were rung regularly on May 29, Nov. 5, on the anniversary of the Sovereign's

<sup>1</sup> "In Kethe's sermon, preached at Blandford Forum, 1570, p. 19, it is stated that there was a custom in the Papal times to ring bells at All Hallow-tide for all Christian souls." Brand's *Antiquities*, I., 395.

<sup>2</sup> "Sometimes called the 'Saunce Bell' and the 'Sacring Bell.' It was a small bell formerly rung at the elevation of the host, and at different parts of the service during Mass, as for calling to prayer, etc."—Raines *History of Chantries*, II., 259.

birthday and accession to the throne. Our glorious victories by sea and land were loyally and joyfully celebrated, nor were many of the prominent social, political, and religious movements of the day left unhonoured and unringed.

1667-8	Jan. Payd for ringing for the joy of the Victory which the King had at the sea against the Dutch <sup>1</sup> .....	0	1	0
1668	May 29. Payd for ringing and in drink the same day <sup>2</sup> .....	0	6	8
	Nov. 5. payd for ringing ye 5th November <sup>2</sup> .....	0	6	8
	Nov. 5. payd to Ringers for ringing two King's dayes <sup>3</sup> ...	0	10	0
1669	payd for ringing upon ye Coronation Day .....	0	7	0
1684	payd for ringing ye 30th January .....	0	5	0
1668-9	Spent on the Ringers when the rung for the Earle of Darby <sup>4</sup> . Feby. 7 At the proclaiming King William and Queen Mary pd to the Ringers on St. George's Day being the Coronation Day .....	00	01	00
	Day .....	00	06	00
	Paid to the Ringers the last day of thanksgiving .....	00	06	00
1690-1	Paid to the Ringers on the last General Day of thanksgiving .....	00	05	00
1692	Paid to the Ringers on gunpowder & treason day .....	00	06	00
1692-3	Spent on the Ringers when the newes came of ye Victory at sea being a day of rejoicing <sup>5</sup> .....	00	05	00
1701	Nov. 12. pa ye Ringers upon ye thanksgiving day for ye great Victory obtained by her Majestes armies both by sea and land espall at Vigo .....	00	03	00
1705-6	pd to ye Ringers upon ye 8 of March.....	00	02	06
1706	To the Ringers for ye Victory at Ramellies and Barcelona...	00	03	00
	To the Ringers on the Queen's nativity .....	00	02	06
	Payd for Ringing at the Victory at Turine .....	00	02	06
	Paid to the Ringers upon the Union <sup>6</sup> .....	00	03	00
	pd for wood and coals for the bonfire .....	00	01	00
1707	Aug. 19. pd to ye Ringers for sounding ye Victory obtained Andouard [Oudenarde] .....	00	02	06
	pd to ye Ringers when nuse came of ye takeing of Lyle [Lille] .....	00	02	06
	pd to ye Ringers for sounding ye triumph over ye frensh at Brusells .....	00	02	06
1709	Feb. 17. Being ye thanksgiving day for our great Victorys obtained Spain <sup>7</sup> .....	00	10	02
1710-11	At ye good nuse of ye taking of Dowa .....	00	02	06
	When nuse came of taking Bethune .....	00	01	06
1711-12	Apl. 11. When nuse came of ye peace to ye ringers .....	00	01	04
1712-13	att ye Releasing of Doctor Sachevrill <sup>8</sup> .....	00	02	06

<sup>4</sup> This "Victory" was one of the most humiliating defeats the British fleet ever experienced.

<sup>2</sup> The bells were rung for many years upon "Royal Oak Day" and "Guy Fawkes' Day."—One such record of each is deemed sufficient.

<sup>3</sup> Anniversary of King Charles 2nd's Coronation and Birthday.

<sup>4</sup> Birth of Edward Stanley, eleventh Earl of Derby.

<sup>5</sup> La Hogue.

<sup>6</sup> Act of Union, Scotland and England.

<sup>7</sup> Capture of Minorca, etc.

<sup>8</sup> In March, 1713, after 3 years imprisonment for preaching against the Dissenters.

1714	May 29 to ye Ringers.....	00 02 06
	Aug. 1 Spt when ye King was proclaimed .....	00 06 08
	Sep. 18. When nuse came of the Kings safe arivall <sup>1</sup> .....	00 01 04
	Spt at ye Coronation .....	00 07 06
1727	Oct. 10. Spent at his present Majesty's Coronation .....	00 07 08
1728	June 11. At ye inaugration of King George ye 2nd to ye gent and Ringers .....	00 05 00
	Oct. 30. pd to ye Ringers on King Geo : Birthday <sup>2</sup> .....	00 02 06
1741	May 24. When Newse came of assaulting Carthagena .....	00 05 00
1743	July 1. When news came of the Victory over the French att Dettingen.....	00 04 00
1745	July 25. Spent at the newse of the Emperor's Coronation ...	00 02 06
	To the Ringers wn newse came of the Duke entering Preston	00 01 00
	To the Ringers wn newse came of the Rebels being subdued at Carlisle .....	00 01 00
1746	at ye Thanksgiving for ye glorious Victory obtaind over ye Rebels at Culloden in Scotland commanded by ye Duke of Cumberland .....	00 11 00
1748-9	Apl. 25. Spent on the Thanksgiving for peace.....	00 06 09
1757-8	To News from the King of Prussia .....	00 01 00
	Expended a second time for news of the K : Prussia.....	00 01 00
1758-9	Expended when news came that King of Prussia had van- quished the Austrians .....	00 01 00
1758-9	Expended upon taking Cape Breton .....	00 02 00
	Expended upon conquering the Russians .....	00 01 00
Objected agst	To Gun Powder for 5th November .....	00 03 04
	Expended on taking Guadaloupe.....	00 01 00
	On Prince Ferdind vanquishing the French .....	00 02 06
	On taking Crown Point .....	00 01 00
	On taking Quebeck .....	00 02 00
	On Admiral Hawke conquering Conflans .....	00 02 00
1760	Rejoicing on taking Montreal .....	00 01 00
	Expended on the Musician and Singers.....	00 04 00
	Expended on the Defeat of the Austrians .....	00 01 00
1762	To expences on news of taking the Havanna .....	00 02 06
1776	Paid to James Walton for 11 quarts of ale expended at a publick Rejoicing day .....	0 4 5
1780	Ringin for Burgoyne and Houghton <sup>3</sup> .....	0 1 0
	Ditto for News .....	0 1 0
	To Ringers rejoicing of Rodney <sup>3</sup> .....	0 3 0
	Ditto Burgoyne taking his seat .....	0 2 0
1793	To Ringers spent in ale for good news .....	0 12 6
1801	Illuminations for peace, Octob. 4th, Powder, Ribbands, etc. ...	0 15 3
	Ale for Ringers at the Ratification of Peace .....	0 1 6

<sup>1</sup> George I.<sup>2</sup> George II., Oct. 30th.<sup>3</sup> Election of Colonel (afterwards General) Burgoyne and Sir HenryHoghton as Members for Preston.  
Burgoyne's return was petitioned  
against—without success.

1805	James Creuen's Bill for ale for Musicians ; Thos. Alston's Bill for ale for Ringers, etc. ; John Hey's Bill for Powder and Paper on the Rejoicing Days .....	0	16	7½
1820	Minute-Toll for the Princess, 6 hours .....	0	2	0
	„ for the Queen, 10 hours .....	0	2	6
	„ for the King, 12 hours .....	0	3	0
1821	Paid Ringers at the Coronation .....	0	4	6
1823	Dinners and ale for the Ringers.....	0	12	6
1829	Relaxation .....	1	6	6
1831	Ringers at the Coronation .....	1	0	0
1839	Ringers at the Coronation .....	1	0	0

## CHURCH PLATE.

As we have already seen, no return was made of the plate belonging to Ribchester Church in the time of Edward VI., with the exception of one lamp value vijs. Judging from the small amounts recorded in the Accounts the church plate was of little value.

1666	Disburst for one pewter flaggone and newe pewter dishes bought at Preston .....	0	6	0
1687	paid for a Bason for ye Church .....	0	1	7
1708-9	paid in exchanging ye ould flagons for neue .....	1	7	6
1815	Chalice and two Cups .....	17	14	0
1883	Inventory of the Communion Plate :— One covered flagon. One Paten. Two chalices.			

## EPISCOPAL AND MINISTERIAL VISITATIONS.

In the days when pluralism, with its consequent non-residence, was common, it was necessary that the parish should provide hospitality for the frequent “changes” of ministers. From 1681 to 1706 we find more “strange” ministers preaching at Ribchester than usual. This was perhaps owing to the Rev George Ogden's non-residence (see chapter iv.). We have identified most of the clergymen ; and in some instances have added a few notes about them (see chapter iv.). The “chappell,” so often mentioned, is Longridge Church, which so late as 1868 was a chapel-of-ease under Ribchester.

It is worthy of note that the “gentlemen” distinctly record having “elected” their curates in 1685-6, in 1691-2 (*bis*); and likewise record their power of giving them “notis” to remove, in 1705-6 ; and of regulating their salary according to their “good behaviour in the Parish,” so late as 1767-8. We sometimes

wonder if there are any of the "gentlemen" of Ribchester to-day who would like to exercise such great powers, now happily taken from them.

1666	For the Apparator's fee .....	0	1	8
	Spent at drink att Chippin when the p'sentnt was made, and deleviewed in to the Deane .....	0	1	0
1667	May 29. Spent upon Mr. Sherborne minister .....	00	1	2
1668	Payd for ye Deane's fees at ye same time yt we were sworne Spent by us 5 churchwardens upon Oe selves and Oe horses goeing to Preston to have been sworne but were disappointed.....	0	9	0
	for the charges of 4 churchwardens goeing to Wigan, July 10th, for the obteyning an order from the Byshp for repairing of ye church, and spent upon oe selves, horses staying one night, and in goeing home ye next day 3s a piece .....	0	5	6
	Spent in goeing to Wigan for to certify the Byp how the customs of the parish had formerly beene, in charge on oe selves and oe horses 3s a piece for 3 men .....	0	12	0
	paid to Mr. Dwight for an order at ye same time .....	0	9	0
1670	July 17. Spent on Mr. foster when hee preached .....	0	10	0
	Aug. 13. Spent on Mr. Ingham and his wife son to ye Vicar when he preached .....	00	1	[2]
	Dec. 13. Spent when Mr. Marsh son in law preached .....	00	1	3
1671	Sept. 17. Spent on Mr. Roades .....	00	1	6
	Oct. 21. paid for the diner and drink for Mr. Deane when hee preached .....	00	01	06
	Spent when Mr. Hartley preached .....	00	02	00
1673	July 1. Spent when Mr. Bentley preached .....	00	02	04
	Oct. 5. Spent when Mr. Harrison preached .....	00	02	06
1677	Aug. 26. paid for meat and drink when Mr. Naden and Mr. Marsh were paid their charges to go to Chester .....	0	13	0
	To Mr. Marsh and Mr. Naden for their charge in goeing to Chester.....	6	0	0
1678	pd for a dinner for Mr. Ingham of fullige .....	00	02	06
	pd for a dinner for Mr. Walmsley that preached at our church and his company .....	00	04	00
1678-9	paid to ye Register of ye Commisary Court for careying and paying ye Money to Sir Joseph Cradock .....	0	2	0
1679	paid at five severall times in entertayneing five severall Ministers at ye Church and Longridge Chappell.....	00	04	03
	paid for repaireinge of Chappell at ye Request of ye Lord Bishop .....	02	03	06
1681	paid and spent upon Mr. Ogden and other gentlemen .....	00	01	00
1682	In wine and ale to welcome Mr. Ogden at Ribchester and Chappell .....	00	05	00
	Spent when Banks preached and on other too ministrs.....	00	09	02
1683	Spent when Mr. Whytehead preached .....	00	04	04



	Spent when Mr. Seed preached .....	00 05 05
	Spent at Chappell when Mr. Whytehead preached .....	00 02 06
	Spent at Ellis Slaters on Mr. Kippax.....	00 02 00
1684	Spent on Mr. White and other Ministers yt came to preach at our Church out of ye parish .....	00 04 08
	Spent on Mr. Butterworth and Mr. Coulton ye Kings Preacher and other preachers .....	00 07 09
1685-6	Paid for entertaining Mr. Gee of Whalley .....	00 02 00
	Spent on the King's Minister at Longridge .....	00 06 04
	Spent on Mr. Kippax and the King's Minister at Longridge. ....	00 04 00
	Spent when Mr. White preacht at Longridge .....	00 01 06
	Spent on Mr. fellgatte and his father a severall times on the Sabeth dayes and other times .....	00 05 06
	Spent when Mr. Kay preached at Ribchester .....	00 05 03
	Paid when wee elected Mr. ffelgate to be our Curat .....	00 04 00
	Spent when Mr. Butterworth came to hear Mr. Kippax preach at Longridge .....	00 01 02
	Spent when Mr. ffelgate came the first time to preach at Longridge .....	00 00 08
	Spent on Mr. Haydock when he preached at Longridge Chappell .....	00 02 09
1686-7	Spent and paid at ye visitation at Lanc <sup>r</sup> and paid to ye coort in money .....	1 16 3
	Spent at too severall times on Mr. Coolton at Longridge.....	00 04 00
	Spent on Mr. Barrowclough at Longridge .....	00 01 06
	Spent on Mr. Barton at Ribchester and Longridge .....	00 03 06
1687-8	Spent when Mr. Bushell preached .....	00 02 08
1689-90	Spent when Mr. Sheirley preached .....	00 01 06
1690-1	Spent on Mr. Butterworth and Mr. Bland .....	00 02 06
1691-2	Spent at Carters at the Ellection of Mr. Butterworth .....	00 03 02
	Spent at severall tymes when Mr. Woodes preached.....	00 03 00
	Spent at Longridge on Mr. Harrison .....	00 01 08
	item spent at Longridge on Mr. Gregson .....	00 02 04
	Spent at the Ellection of Mr. Gregson .....	00 07 01
1692-3	Spent on the Vickar of Chippin .....	00 00 06
	Spent on my Lord Bipp of Chester and his attendants on Wine and Aell .....	00 18 10
	Spent upon Mr. Ogden at sever <sup>l</sup> times upon his removall to Ribchester .....	00 06 00
1693-4	Spt on Mr. Nayden when he preached .....	00 02 00
	given to a poore Ireish minister ..	00 01 00
	pd to a passenger haveing losses by fire .....	00 01 00
	Spt on ye Mr. Bristowe at Longridge .....	00 01 04
1698-9	Spent when Mr. Briska preached .....	00 02 06
1702-3	Spent at Anne Carter's when ye petition to my Ld Bishop was signed by ye 24 .....	0 3 0
	Nov. 30. Spent at ye Blew bell wn Mr. Callis letter came from ye Bishop .....	0 1 6
1704	May 2. Spent at Anne Carters when Mr. Robinson preached	00 01 00

1705-6	Spent on Mr. Ingham when he preached .....	00 02 06
	Pd for Mr. Ogden and Mr. Morton.....	00 03 00
	Spent when we gave Mr. Morton notis to remove .....	00 02 01
1707-8	Spt on Mr. Taylor when he preached.....	00 01 00
1713-14	Spent on Mr. Wareing when he preached.....	00 02 06
1715-16	When Mr. Dickson preached .....	00 02 06
1717-18	Spent in treating Mr. Wareing, Mr. Holme and Mr. Parkinson	00 09 00
1718	May 29. In treating Mr. Leper, Mr. Langfield, and Mr. Rawthmell when preached.....	00 07 06
1719	Spent in treating Mr. Leper, Mr. Wareing, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Charnley and Mr. Coughill, Mr. Langfield .....	00 15 00
1724-25	Spt in entertaining Mr. Dickson and Mr. Bradbury.....	00 07 10
	Spt on Mr. Read when he preached .....	00 02 00
1727 8	Spent in entertaining Mr. Bowker .....	00 01 02
1728-9	Spent when Mr. Dewhurst preached .....	00 02 06
1729-30	Spent upon Mr. Norcrosse when he preached .....	00 02 06
1730-1	Spent upon Mr. Pepelow .....	00 01 00
1733-4	When Mr. Winder preached.....	00 02 06
1738	Spent on Mr. Dixon when we speake to him to officiate after Mr. Johnson's death .....	00 01 06
	Oct. 29. When Mr. Heber first preacht and entertainment...	00 08 01
1741	Sep. 27. When Mr. Mathews preacht .....	00 02 06
	June 27. When Mr. Wetherhead preacht.....	00 02 06
	Aug. 2. When Mr. Southcoat came .....	00 03 09
1742-3	Entertaining Mr. Whitwell, Mr. Ward, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Winder, Mr. Norcrosse .....	00 14 00
1745	June 16th. Entertaining Mr. Robison and the Curet of Kirk- ham when he first came .....	00 02 06
1747-8	When Mr. Wright Curt of Kirkham preacht .....	00 02 06
	When Mr. ffox preacht .....	00 01 00
	When Mr. Witwell preacht .....	00 01 00
	to Mr. Ayrtton Curt Entertainement .....	00 02 06
1750-1	Spent on Mr. Hunter when he came to preach .....	00 01 00
1751-2	Spent on Mr. Jeffard when he came to preach .....	00 02 00
	Spent when Mr. Penny came to preach.....	00 01 00
1754-5	Mr. Heskin when he came to preach .....	00 02 00
1757-8	Expended when Mr. Milner preached ..	00 02 06
1764	To Mr. Farrar for doing duty .....	00 02 00
	To Mr. Sharp's Entertainment on Sacrament days .....	00 07 00
1767-8	Alowed Mr. Armitsted towards his Expenses on Sacrt days in consideration of his good behaviour in the Parish .....	00 06 06
1773	Allowed Mr. Atkinson when at Ribchester <sup>1</sup> .....	00 02 06

### MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

The following items will be best included under one head :—

1668	To Richard Watson for one foxe heade.....	0 1 0
	To the said Richard Watson for 18 Noap heades .....	0 1 6
	To Richard Ward for 13 Noap heades .....	0 1 1

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Atkinson was Curate of Ribchester.  
Walton-le-Dale as well as Vicar of

	Paid for 68 Noap heades .....	0	2	10
1676	Dec. 6. For writing ye names of all persons above 26 years of age.....	0	3	0
1678	Pd to Mr. Ward for a fox head .....	0	1	0
1679	Paid for exchanging ye church powder.....	0	2	3
1678	Pd for burials in woolen .....	00	00	10
1679	Paide and laide out in materials and workmanshipe for building ye bone house ..	03	00	00
1680	Spent at Whalley at a Quarter Sessions being commanded to be there to by the Justisses to make presentments of Recusants	00	02	03
1681	Paid to Lawyer Greenfield for his opinion drawinge ye petition that was preferred to ye Bisschopp and ye parish ingagnt and his clarke and in writing them over .....	00	12	06
	Pd for engrossing ye parish Ingagement fixing two hundred scales to it and odd.....	00	03	06
1682	Spent at Leonard Boys when we tendred our hay penny .....	00	05	06
	ffor Mr. Warde's fee of ye Inner Temple and letters.....	00	13	07
	Spent upon Mr. Callice at ye Gilde <sup>1</sup> .....	00	01	06
1683	Paid to Widdow Yates for one Bare [?] .....	00	00	06
	Paid for a warrant from Mr. Bradyll for to take up frequent gamsters at Dutton Lee .....	00	02	00
1685	Paid for a dyall post setting on Longridge Crosse .....	00	04	06
1710-11	Spent at ye Coffee house (Preston) .....	00	00	01
	To Esqr Houghton's huntsman 1 fox head .....	0	1	0
1746	Pd for an act against immorality and profainness.....	00	00	09
1747.8	When ye first petition was drawn .....	00	01	00
	for a mesinger to put it into ye post office .....	00	01	00
	at ye drawing ye latcr petition by Sr Hen: order <sup>2</sup> .....	00	00	08
	to Mr. Threlfall for 21 of gunpowder .....	00	02	08
1780	In expenses to Sergeant and Constable .....	0	1	6
	To expenses in carriage and to make up even money.....	0	14	8½
1781	Paid for a Letter of Enquiry from the Bishop .....	0	0	4
	To George Radcliffe Making answer to Enquiries .....	0	3	6
1796	Paid to Two Letters when the Bishop came to confirm.....	0	0	8
1827	Rev. Jas. Quartley for trespassing croft and church yard .....	0	5	0
	Mr. Sharp for a copy of the terrier.....	1	1	6
	Copying the terrier in the parish book .....	0	2	7

## THE RECTORY.

In the first Register occurs the following: "Memorandum—That in ye year 1682, I, George Ogden, Vicar of Ribchester, built ye vicarage hous there, at my own charge. Except three pounds odd shillings were contributed towards the same by some well affected persons. Upon this account Mr. Abraham Townley, of Dutton, gave twenty shillings. But since I have writ thus far I have found it for a certain truth y<sup>t</sup> ye said inhabitants of Dutton

<sup>1</sup>Preston Guild,

Sir Henry Hoghton.

have for several years together both to y<sup>e</sup> King and poor overated me in many pounds before I discovered it. I have therefore no reason to thank them for y<sup>e</sup> above said kindness.—Aug: y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1701.”

In 1884-5, the present handsome house was built; the greater portion of the cost being met by a grant of £1,500 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. It is a matter for regret that no relics of the old Vicarage have been preserved, in spite of the strict injunctions given to the workmen engaged in its demolition.

#### COLLECTIONS ON “BRIEFS”—OUT OF CHURCH- WARDENS’ ACCOUNT BOOKS AND REGISTERS.<sup>1</sup>

In Burn’s *History of Parish Registers*, Sandwich, Kent, is described as having the largest list of collections on briefs; no less than 235 collections being entered in the registers between 1707 and 1736. But in the Rev. C. Kerry’s *History of St. Lawrence’s, Reading* (published in 1883), a list of no less than 284 Collections on “Briefs” is given within exactly this same period. Mr. J. E. Bailey in *Manchester Courier Local Gleanings* gives a list of sixty-five entries of sums collected in Stretford, between 1661 and 1679. To Mr. Bailey and Mr. Kerry I am indebted for many particulars of the collections in cases where the Ribchester entries are too brief. It is noticeable that a large number of these collections were made at Ribchester, and that in the earlier years the amounts collected exceeded those at Stretford and other parishes. It should be added that most of these entries (in several cases shockingly mutilated by the pages of the register being cut apparently with scissors) down to the year 1700 occur in the first register; the remaining entries are scattered through the Churchwardens’ Account Book

<sup>1</sup> “Briefs,” so called from the brevity of the terms in which they were expressed, “were Letters Patent of recommendation authorizing collections for charitable purposes,” and “were publicly read in parish churches.” After the Restoration, “briefs” became “an abuse, and Pepys has the following note in his *Diary*: ‘1661, June 30, Sunday. To church where we observe the trade

of briefs is come now up to so constant a course every Sunday, that we resolve to give no more to them.’ This note will account for the ludicrously small amount of many of these collections. ‘Briefs’ were abolished 9, Geo. IV., 15 July, 1828. One of the last issued, dated May 20, 1825, is given in full in *The History of Longridge*; (also see chapter xi.).

- 1661 Collected was a briefe in the parish church at Ribchester, July 7, for the reliefe of Drayton in the County of Salopp, the summ was eight shillings and foure pence and was paid over to Henry Langton of Drayton towne.
- 1661 Collected was a briefe in the parish church at Ribchester July 21st for the reliefe of Southwouldas, Saubbay in the County of Suffolk the sum was three shillings and tenne pence, and paid over to Lancellet Boulton [Southwold—Collected at Stretford, 3s.]
- 1661 Collected was a briefe in the parish church at Ribchester, Sept. 8th for the reedifying of the church of Pontefract the sume of six shillings and eight pence. Paid over to Mr. Clayton, vicar of Blackborne.
- 1661 Collected was a briefe in the parish church at Ribchester, Sept. 29th, for the repairing of Steeple and the church of Rippon in Yorkshire, the sum of three shillings and eight pence and payd over to Lanslot Bowlton high Constable.
- 1661 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester, the 3rd November, for the repairing of Twoo Churches in Scarowbrough Towne, the sum of three shillings and six pence and payed over to Lancelot Bowlton, high Constable. [Scarborough, Yorkshire.]
- 1661-2 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester the 29th January, for the reliefe of William Cowperthwaite in the parish of Cendall, County of Westmoreland, for a sudden fire, the sum of two shillings . . . and paid over the said . . . [Part of the page is here cut out.]
- 1661-2 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester the 9th Ffebruary, towards the relief of Thomas Welby who lost his vessel by shipwreck neare Dublin, the sume of ffour shilling and two pence, and paid over to Lancelot Bowlton, high Constable.
- 1661-2 Collected on a briefe in the parish of Ribchester 2nd March towards the reliefe of Thom. Thornton, James Nelson, and Christopher Milner of Sowerby in the parish of Thirske wth Emly county of Yorke and payd over unto Launcelot Boulton High Constable, the sum was 3s. ijd. [Stretford contributed 2s. 6d. on the 16th February 1661-2.]
- 1662 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester the 30th day of March 1662, towards the reliefe of Willm. Jenkinson of ffarliton in the parish of Melling and County of Lancaster and payd over unto Lancelot Bowlton, high Constable—the sum was 3s. 4d.
- 1662 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester the twenty . . . day of Aprill, 1662, towards the reliefe of Towne of Bridge North in the County of Salop, the sume of ffoure shillings and five pence and payd over unto Lancelot Bowlton high Constable, att whose hands the briefe was then received.
- 1662 Collected was a briefe in the parish church of Ribchester and frô house to house the twentyth second day of June 1662 towards the assisting off the Trade of Isbrig (?) the sum of seven shillings and eleven pence & payd over unto the high Constable, by Tho. Yates collector.



- 1662 October 29th, 1662 [Collected was a briefe in the parish] church of Ribchester . . . . in a streete in London . . . . and was paid over unto . . . . By Mr. Ingham.<sup>1</sup>
- 1662 Nov. the last 1662, Collected [was a briefe in the] parish church of Ribchester [for the relief of] John Woolrich of Creswell [in the county of Stafford] the sum of two shillings . . . . and payd over to Edward B[owlton ?]<sup>1</sup>
- 1663 Collected June 21st by an order from the high constable for the relief of p'sons suffering shippwrack living in the Isle of Ross the sum of five shillings and seven pence and payd over unto him.
- Collected July 3rd for the relief of a man who had his [house?] burnt in the Parish of Leland by order of the Justices of Peace made att the quarter Sessions last before the thirde of July the sum of . . .
- Collected July 12th by a briefe for Willm Smith and other inhabitants of the Towne of Hexham in the county of Northumberland the sum of ffive shillings and foure pence, and payd over unto the p'ish high constable. [In the Stretford Registers the sum of "three shillings and eleven pence" is recorded as being collected for the "violent fire" at "Hexhom."]
- Collected July 26, 1663, by a Briefe for the reliefe off John Miller off Workington, in the county off Cumberland nine and vid., and payd over unto the hands of . . . .
- 1664 Collected April the third, 1664, a briefe for the repairing of the church and steeple of St. Peter in the port of Sandwich in the County of Kent—was collected; the sum was five shillings and nine pence and payd over unto Ralph Chritchey, Collector, and received his acquittance. [Stretford contributed 2s. 5d.]
- 1664 Collected Apr 10th, 1664, a briefe for the repairing of the church of Witheham in the County of Sussex the sum of foure shillings and five pence and payd over. . . . [Mr. J. E. Bailey states that the sum of 1s. 9d. was collected on the 27 March, at Stretford, "for the repair of Welham Cvrch fired by lightning in the Cvnty of Sussex." And adds, "there is no Welham in Sussex. Is Welham, near Market Harboro', intended?<sup>2</sup>" There can be no doubt that Witheham or Withyham, near Tunbridge Wells was intended, and not Welham.]
- 1664 [Collected . . . . a] briefe for the relefe [of . . . . the] inhabitance of Heigh [tington in the parish of Wast] ing borough, and [ . . . . the sum of] three shillings [ . . . . and payd over] unto Ralph Chryeley.
- 1664 [Collected . . . . a] briefe for the reliefe of [gran]tham in the county off [Lincoln, the sum of] twoo shillings and ]. . . . and payd over] unto Edw Blackhouse. ["A voyalant fire" caused the damage to the town.]
- 1664 Collected . . . . was a briefe for the Towne of . . . . in the county of Northampton the sum of ffoure shillings and ffoure pence and payd over unto Willm Jackson <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pieces of the pages are here cut out with scissors or knife.

<sup>2</sup> *Manch. Courier Local Gleanings*,

I., 23.

<sup>3</sup> Here again the page of the Register is horribly mutilated.

- 1664 Collected was a briefe Aug 6th, 1664, for the reliefe of the losses of Richard Morcroft of Aughton in the County of Lancaster, and paid over unto the said Rich. Morcroft the sum of four shillings. [Morecroft was a "dyer" in "Ovghton" (Hoghton) and received 2s. 8d. on the 7th August from Stretford Parish.]
- 1664-5 Collected was a briefe, Jan. 1, 1664, for the reliefe of Henry Lisle in Gisborough in the County of Yorke towards great losse by fire, the sum of three shillings, and paid over unto Lawrence Osbaldeston. [Stretford contributed 2s. 3d.]
- 1664-5 Collected was a briefe Jan. 8th, 1664, for the reliefe of the losses which happened by fire for the Market towne of flookburgh in the County of Lancaster the sum of twoo shillings and tenne pence and payd over unto Tho. Swarthbrick, Apparatur. [Stretford contributed one shilling and a leven pence, on the 16th April.]
- 1665 Collected March 31, 1665 att the request of the Bysp, the Earl of Derby, and others for Gilbert Greene, of Wigan, the sum of 3s. 3d.
- 1665 Collected April 9th, 1665, for John Machgragh, a Captaine in Ireland, by order frô the Commisrs for grievances : the sum of 2s. 3d.
- 1665 Collected by briefe May 28, 1665, towards the repaire of Tinmouth Church, the sum of three shillings and three pence : & left wth Tho. Yate to be returned.
- 1665 Aug. 13th, Collected was a brief for the reliefe of divers p'sons who suffered greate loss by tr. . . . dwoing? in shilling fleete in the East Riding in the County of Yorke, and payd over to Mr. Bushell to be returned to some of the p'ties, the sum of three shillings and twoo pence.
- Aug. 25th, Collected in the parish of Ribch : towards the repaire of the parish Church of Clun in the county of Salop, the sum of two shillings and three pence—left in hands of the Clerke.
- Aug. 29th, Collected for and towards the reliefe of John Osborne a Russia Merchant the sum of twoo shillings and foure pence, and payd over into the hands of Rich. Hamond. [According to Stretford and Sparsholt registers, John Osborne's two ships met with shipwreck and other disasters].
- Oct. 26th, Collected for and towards the reliefe of Waymoth and Melcome Regis. in ye County of Dorset the sum of twoo shillings, and payd over unto Rich : Hamond [a violent fire].
- Collected in November 1667 in the parish of Ribchester, from house to house in the County of Lancaster, for and towards the repaire of the Towne of Newport in the County of Salop, the sum of fiftene shillings and twoo pence, and payd over unto Captain Marsden high Constable, and an acquittance received for the same [Newport].
- 1668-9 Jan. 21, 23, 28, Collected in the parish of Ribchester from house to house by order of his m'atie's proclamation for and towards the repaire and rebuilding houses in London of the poorer sort of people the sum of Twelve shillings, and payd over to Rich. Marsden high Constable for that yeare.
- ffeb. 21st, Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester by order of Letters Patent for and towards the rebuilding of the church at

- Haverhill in the county of Suffolke the sum of sixe shillings and twoo pence, and payd over unto the hands of Mr. John Marsh.
- 1669 July 18, Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester by order of Letters Patent for and towards ye rebuilding of the chappell and other houses burned in Tiberton in ye county of Salop, the sum of three shillings and eight pence, and payd over unto the hands of . . .
- August 24th, Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester by order of Letters Patent towards the reliefe of the inhabitance of Brocton in the County of Stafford, wch suffered great losse by fire wch happen on the May 5th anno Regni Caroli 18th, the sum of twoo shillings and nyne pence, and payd over unto Tho: Liver, and payd more three shillings 9d.
- 1669-70 January 30th, Collected in ye church by Letters of request from his m<sup>tie</sup>'s Commissioners for the reliefe of distresse<sup>d</sup> people, for John Sanderson hys wife and children, and Elizabeth Wentworth, who dwell in the Isle of Wallie belonging unto the Kingdom of Ireland, were robbed and had their houses burnt by pyrates.<sup>1</sup>
- 1670 May 1st, Collected in y<sup>e</sup> parish of Ribchester by Letters Patent for and towards the reliefe of the inhabitants of Cottonend in the parish of Harington in the county of Northampton, suffering great losse by fire the sum of five shillings and tenne pence halfpenny and payd over unto Rich. Ward, Junior Constable. [At Stretford 3s. 10d. was collected].
- June 5th, In ye church of Ribchester towards the reliefe of the inhabitants of Mool-Brane in ye county of Salop, and payd over unto Tho. Liverman, Collector, the sum of five shillings and a halfpenny, and received an acquittance. [In Stretford Register the town is called "Mool Brace"].
- July 10th, Collected in ye church of Ribchester towards ye reliefe of the inhabitance of Isleham in ye County of Cambridge, the sum of five shillings and three pence. [Iseham: Stretford collected "fore shillings."]
- Sept. 18th, Collected in ye church of Ribchester towards the reliefe of the inhabitance of Wolsingham in ye County of Durham, and payd over unto Thomas . . . the sum of nyne shillings and eight pence ["a voyalant fire."]
- Octob. 30th, Collected in ye parish of Ribchester for and towards ye reliefe of the inhabitance of Beddles in ye county of Suffolk, the sum of three shillings, and payd over unto Thom. Liverman of Stafford. [Beckles. Stretford contributed 3s.]
- 1670-1 Jan. 1st, Collected in ye church of Ribchester for and towards the reliefe of John Dyne, of Bentley in ye County of Stafford the sum of three shillings and four pence, and payd over unto Tho. Liverman, of Stafford [Mr. J. E. Bailey gives the Stretford entry as "John G v . . . her of Hensley or Bensley."]
- 1671 Collected through all ye Hamlets and Towne of Ribchester, in June, 1671, for and towards the redeeming of English men out of bondage from under the Turkish pyrates, the sum of £1 12s. 3d., and payd

<sup>1</sup> No amount is stated in the Register.

over unto Mr. Crouch, Secretary unto ye Bysp of Chester, and an acquittance received. I say the sum is 1 12 3. [These collections for captives were very frequent in many parishes in England about this time.]

June 30th, Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester for and towards the reliefe of ye inhabitants of ye towne . . . in ye county of Wilts, and payd over unto Abr. Townley, high constable, 0. 3. 0.

August 13th, Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester towards ye reliefe of the inhabitants of Yaram in Yorkshire, the sum of foure shilling, and payd over unto . . . [In Stretford register we find the place called "Yarvm."]

. . . . Collected in ye parish church of Ribchester for and towards ye reliefe of ye inhabitanse of ye towne of Halton, in ye parish of Whitbork in Yorkshire, and payd over to Henry Misson (?), the sum of two shillings. [Stretford contributed 2s. 10d.]

1671-2 payd to Richard Ward for writing a List of ye money collected for ye ransoming Englyshmen out of ye power of the Dutches . . . . . 0 1 9

1672 payd upon a brieft for ye use of Stephen Harrison and others of Coulen . . . . . 00 01 06

payd to a brieft for ye use of Joseph Walton & others . . . . . 00 02 00

payd to a brieft for ye use of John Scheton & others . . . . . 00 01 00

payd upon a brieft to Matthew Shopheaine & others . . . . . 00 03 00

payd upon Certificate to Thomas Lester & others for theire use . . . . . 00 01 06

payd upon a brieft yt came fro severall of ye Justices of Peace of South Hampton for ye loss of 13 000 and a 100 pounds 00 03 00

1672 April 16, 17, 18, Collected in ye parish from house to house for and towards ye reliefe of part of ye inhabitanse of Oxford by reason of a great loss by fire, the sum of 6 : 10, and payd over unto Mr. Abr. Towneley, high constable.

Unto Thom. Lester, a very poore man, the sum of one shilling and sixpence.

1673 March 30th, Collected towards ye reliefe of ye inhabitanse of the towne of ffordinbrige in ye county of Southampton three shillings, and payd over. ["A voyalant fire."]

April 13th, Collected towards the relief of the inhabitanse of Bulkington in Warwickshire, the sum of one shilling and sixpence, and payd over unto Accworth Chambler, collector.

Collected in May from house to house for and towards ye relief of the inhabitanse of Russell Streete of St. Martin's in ye fields the sum of nyne shillings, and payd over unto.

June 1st, Collected towards ye reliefe of James Peny, and others of Peny, of Hinstock (? in ye county of Salop, one shilling and eightpence, and paid over. [In Stretford register, "James Perry, of Hinslock."]

. . . . Collected for the relief of certain persons dwellin in Barrow of R . . . seborough in Yorkshire, the sum of two shillings, and payd over.

- July 18, Collected for ye reliefe of ye sufferers by fire at ffordingbridge  
n the county of Southampton the sum of three shillings, and paid  
over unto Willm. . . .
- May 26, Collected by order of a briefe for and towards ye reliefe of  
Stephen Harrison and others of Milburne-gate in ye city of  
Durham, who sustained loss by fire, the sum of one shilling and  
eight pence, and paid over unto James Harness (?).
- 26, Given by Churchwardens att ye request of ye minister of  
Colne, and ye inhabitation of ye said parish unto George Cowper,  
the sum of xviiijd. [The Rev. James Hargreaves was Incumbent of  
Colne at this time.]
- June 9th, Collected in ye parish of Ribchester by order of a briefe for  
and towards ye reliefe of the distressed inhabitation of Ligrave in  
ye parish of Luton in y county of Bedford, the sum of twoo shillings  
and payd over unto Thos. Liverman. [Leagrave, or Lightgrave.  
Sparsholt contributed 3s. 4d.]
- Aug. ij., Collected by order of letters patent for and towards ye reliefe  
of ye great losse by fire in the sugar warhos in London to ye value  
of 60 thousand pounds, ye sum of three shillings, and payd over unto  
Thomas Liverman.
- Aug. 18th, Collected in ye parish for and towards ye reliefe of ye in-  
habitation of ye towne of Ballington in ye county of Warwick the  
sum of one shilling and sixpence, and paid over unto . . . . .
- Sep. 1st, Given by ye churchwardens att ye request of divers persons  
of good quality of the parish of Boulton.
- Collected for the sufferers by fire in Redbourn in ye county of Herts,  
the sum of 1s. 8d.
- Nov. 1, Collected for ye sufferers by fire in Benendent in the county of  
Kent ijs. 0d., payd over unto Thos. Livermore. [Stretford register,  
“ Bolend.”]
- 1675 April 10, Collected for the sufferers by fire in Wallop in the county of  
Southampton, the sum of 2s. 6d., and payd over unto Abraham  
Milldell. (?)
- 1677 paid upon severall Brieffes and some other pasangers ..... 00 07 02
- 1678 pd upon severall brieffes & to serve distressed psons upon  
ye brieffe for building Powles church and other charges  
for attending ye same at Preston..... 00 06 06
- 1683 ffor seven Brieffs ..... 00 18 00  
paid to two pasingers ..... 00 01 00  
paid to ten Breifes ..... 01 01 06
- 1684 Collected for ye fire at Newmarket by ye minister and churchwardens,  
15s. 6d.  
paid to Mr. Kippax for a Breeiffe ..... 00 03 00  
paid to Mr. Kippax for a Breeiffe ..... 00 03 00
- 1689-90 paid for the money getting away for the Irish Protestants ... 00 02 00



Novemb: ye 18th [16]94.

Then rêed upon a brief for ye poor French Protestans ye sum of one pound seven shillings and a penny.

Witnes my hand,

Geo. Ogden Vicar.

Paid to Dr. Wroe the warden of Manchester  
who paid it to ye Bishop.

	s.
Ribchester .....	10 00
Alston .....	05 04
Hothersal .....	04 06
Dilworth .....	03 06
Dutton .....	03 09

Reed for these four Briefs of Mr. Ogden Vicar of Ribchester

Octob. ye 4th [16]96 as follows

	s.
1 ffor ye fire at York (Loss £18,000).....	05 04
2 Trinity Hospital in Hull .....	01 07
3 Rockerdine in Shropshire .....	01 06
4 ffor Nether Haven all by fire (Loss £4590) by me Richard Bagnall Colle.....	01 06

May, 1704, given to nine breifes as follow, viz:

1 Wappin brief (Loss by fire £13,040) .....	2 6
2 Odells brief .....	1 0
3 Brompton brief (Will Brampton of Stockton Salop) .....	1 0
4 Massingham brief (Norfolk) .....	1 3
5 forddes bridg (Fordingbridge, Hants) .....	1 6
6 Tuxford (Notts) .....	2 6
7 Rottesly .....	1 0
8 Hen. Sare.....	0 9
9 The[?]amend .....	0 6

1704, 14 July. C'lleed then

South Molton fire (Devon) .....	1 3
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1705, 25 March. Coll. then

for Stony Stratford fire (Bucks).....	2 3
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Upon a petiêon fr. Hen Taylor of West Haughton was collected three shillings and delivered it to him. 31 May, 1705,

Witness

P. J. Morton, Coll.

Anne Mouka.

# COLLECTIONS IN YE PSH CH: OF RIBCHESTER IN YE YEARE 1706 AND 1707.

1706, June ye 22nd Colected upon ye Briefe for ye Towne of Tow-  
chester in ye County of Northampton ye sum of ..... 00 01 04

Novembr ye 24th Colected upon ye briefe for Morgans Lane in ye  
County of Sury (Southwark, Damage by fire £2706)..... 00 01 05½

1706, Janr ye 10th Collected upon ye briefe for Great Torington in ye County of Devon (Damage by fire £1600) .....	00 00 09½
Janr ye 19th Collected upon ye briefe for Basford Ch : (Notts, Repairs) .....	00 00 09½
1707, April ye 23rd Collected for ye town of North Marston in ye County of Bucks (Loss £3460) .....	00 01 03½
July, ye 20th Collected upon ye briefe for Shire Lane (Middlesex Loss by fire £3505) .....	00 00 09
Augst 3rd Collected upon ye briefe for Spilsby (Lincolnshire, Loss by fire £5984) .....	00 01 06
Augst 31st Collected upon ye breife for Brosley Ch : in ye County of Salop (Damage £1390) .....	00 00 05
Octobr 26th Collected on ye briefe for Littleport in ye isle of Ely (Loss by fire £3931) .....	00 00 09
Septbr 14th Collected upon ye briefe for Joseph Wakelin.....	00 00 09
1708, April 12th Collected upon ye briefe for Shadwell (Middlesex, Loss by fire £6137) .....	00 01 03
April 11th Collected upon ye briefe for Southam (Warwick, Loss by fire £4454) .....	00 01 00
May 16th Collected upon ye briefe for Wincanton (Somerset, Loss by fire £2930).....	00 10 00
May 16th Collected upon ye breife for Orford (Suffolk, Repairs £1450) .....	00 08 00½
1708, May 19th Collected upon ye briefe for Dursley Ch : (Gloucester Damage £1995) .....	00 09 00
May 19th & Collected upon ye briefe for Charles street (Westminster, Loss by fire £3891) .....	00 10 00
May 19th & Collected upon ye briefe for Uper Borman.....	00 11 02
March 20th Collected upon ye briefe for Greate Yarmouth in ye County of Norfolk (Loss by fire £1228).....	00 09 04
Collected ye same day for ye briefe for Heavytree in ye County of Devon (Loss by fire £991) .....	00 08 06
March 20th Collected upon ye Briefe for Lisburn in Ireland (Loss by fire £31,770) .....	00 01 09
Collected upon ye Briefe for Alkonbery-cum-Weston (Calcum- bury-cum-Weston, Huntingdon, Loss by fire £3,318) .....	00 01 04
1709 Collected in ye Ch : upon ye briefe for Harlow Ch : (Harlow Essex, Loss by fire £2,035) .....	00 01 06
Collected in ye Ch : upon ye briefe for Market Resin (Market Rayson, Lincoln, Loss by fire £1228).....	00 01 04
Collected in ye Ch : upon ye briefe of St. Mary, Redcliffe, Bristow (Repairs £4410) .....	00 01 01
Collected in ye p'sh upon ye briefe for ye poore Paletines.....	01 00 00
Collected in ye Ch : upon Stock briefe ("Stoak" Suffolk, Loss by fire £2463).....	00 01 08
1711 Collected in ye parish church of Rib in ye yeare 1711, breife for Woolwich Church (Cost of Rebuilding £5069) .....	00 01 00
1711 Collected in ye Ch : for Long Milford breife (Long Melford, Suffolk Rebuilding).....	00 00 10

	Collected in ye ch : for fradmore and Market Rayson breife (Tadmor, Yorks. Loss by fire £1169).....	00 00 11½
1712	Collected in ye psh ch. for Whitchurch breife (Salop. Damage £5497) .....	00 02 00
	Collected also for Thams street breife (Thames Street, London. Loss by fire £1111) .....	00 00 08½
	Collected also for Richd Slayter breife (Ric. Salter. Coleman Street, London. Loss by fire £1720).....	00 00 08
	Collected also for West Tilbury Church breife (Essex, Rebuilding £1117) .....	00 00 10
	Collected also for Charles Empson breife (of Booth, in Howden, Yorks. Loss by fire £2,000).....	00 00 09
	Collected also for Little Brickhill breife (Bucks. Loss by fire £1270) .....	00 00 08
1713	Collected in ye psh Ch. of Ribr in ye yeare 1713 for Adderley Church breife (Salop, Damage £800) .....	00 00 09
	Collected also for Woodam Ferris Church breife (Essex, Rebuilding £1425) .....	00 00 10
	for St Clement's Church breife (Hastings, Damage £1550) .....	00 00 11
	for Ringle los by fire breife .....	00 00 11
	for Warmingham Church breife (Rebuilding Steeple, Cheshire, Cost £885) .....	00 00 08½
	for Wm Adams los by fire breife (of Heathill in Sherif Hales, Stafford—£108).....	00 00 11½
	for Pensford Church breife (Somerset, Damage £2472).....	00 01 00
	for Borton Church breife (Burton-upon-Trent. Damage £3100) .....	00 01 08
1713	for Colerton ch breife (Coleorton, Leicester. Damage £2412)...	00 01 07
	for Southwell ch breife (Notts. Repairs £3800) .....	00 01 10
1714	Colected in ye psh ch of Ribchester in ye yeare 1714 for Witheridge Chilto Brief (Devon and Berks).....	00 01 00
	for Qualford ch breife (Salop, Rebuilding £1366) .....	00 01 06
	for St Maryes ch breife (Devon, Loss by fire £1392).....	00 01 01¾
	for St Margt breife (Clifie Church, Kent Repairs £1384) .....	00 01 07
	for Leighton ch brief (Salop. Cost £1516) .....	00 01 06
	for St Jon Baptiste breife (Southover, near Lewes. Repairs £1510) .....	00 01 00
	for Buesham—brief .....	00 01 03
	for Dorchester—brief (Loss by fire £2537).....	00 02 00
	for Blandford—brief (The Forum. Loss by fire £7780) .....	00 03 07
	for Bottisham—brief (Cambridge. Loss by fire £3659) .....	00 03 00
	for Shepwash—brief (Shipwash) .....	00 01 03
1715	for Wm Boyer—brief (Loss by fire at Whitefriars) .....	00 01 00
	for Derbych—brief (All Saints', Derby, Rebuilding).....	00 01 00
	for Warwick—brief (Preston Bagots and St. Nicholas, fire) ...	00 00 09
	for Ruthin—brief (Denbigh. Rebuilding, £3128) .....	00 00 10
	for Harksey—brief (? Torksey, Lincoln) .....	00 00 09
	for New Shoram brief (New Shoreham, Sussex).....	00 00 10
	for Cow Keepers brief (Great loss of Cows in Middlesex, etc., £24,539) .....	00 04 00

	for Kentford brief (Suffolk) .....	00 01 00
	for Dryneton brief (Stafford) .....	00 01 00
	for St Peters ch brief (Chester).....	00 02 00
	for St Giless ch brief (Newcastle under Lyne).....	00 02 06
	for Blemhill ch brief (Blymhill, Stafford).....	00 01 06
1716	for St Maryes Ch brief (Lichfield Rebuilding Cost £4966) .....	00 02 06
	for Liverpoole brief (Fire, Loss £3005) .....	00 02 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
	for Walkerith (Walker Kith, Lincoln. Loss by fire £1425) ...	00 01 00 $\frac{1}{2}$
	for Mitcham brief (Surrey) .....	00 01 06
	for Upton brief (in Westham, Essex).....	00 02 00
	for Burton brief ..	00 02 06
	for Spalding brief (Loss by fire £20,560) .....	00 06 06
	for Thames Street brief (London. Loss by fire £7632).....	00 04 00
	for Jon Aron brief (Loss by fire at Little Drayton) .....	00 01 06 $\frac{3}{4}$
1717	for Chelmarsh (Salop).....	00 02 06
	for Houndsditch (London. Loss by fire £5383).....	00 03 06
	for Ottery (Ottery St Mary, Devon. Loss by double fire £44666) .....	00 02 06
	for Rigmont (Ridgmont—Bedford) .....	00 01 00
	for Roland (? Poland—Reformed Churches in great,) .....	00 04 02
	for Harsloft (Derbyshire) .....	00 01 00
	for fframpton (Dorset. Loss by fire £1560).....	00 01 03 $\frac{1}{2}$
	for Oldbury (Gloucestershire) .....	00 01 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
	for Hethwaite (Healthwaite Hill, Yorks).....	00 01 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
	for Bedwin.....	00 01 06

## CHAPTER III.

The Extra-Parochial Chapelry of  
Stydd.

THE history of the manor of Stydd is closely connected, if not quite identified with that of Stydd church. The first Lords of the Manor were probably the Knights Templars, as in the church at Stydd is a very ancient coffin-tomb<sup>1</sup> inscribed with the double cross of the Templars, which, in Dr. Whitaker's opinion, "must unquestionably have belonged to one of the ancient masters of the house." We are unable to agree with this somewhat sweeping assertion. In the first place the Hospitallers were possessed of Stydd before the suppression of the Templars. The Templars were suppressed in 1312, and a list of their possessions, which were granted to the Hospitallers, appears in Philip de Thame's work (to which reference is made below). Stydd is not in this list, but is put in the list of those originally given to the Hospitallers. In the next place a cross with 8 points is a badge of the Hospitallers. What sort of cross is meant by "the double cross" of the Templars? The earliest deeds are without date. Alan de Singleton, son of Richard, confirmed "*Deo et Sancto Salvatoris de sub Langrigh et fratribus ibidem Deo servientibus*," four acres of land in Dilworth, which his father had given them.<sup>2</sup> Wil. Mutun, de Ribelcester, confirmed "*Deo et beate Marie Virgini et hospitali Sancti Salvatoris subtus Longrig et Magistro et fratribus ibidem Deo servientibus*," all the land in the town of Ribchester which his father had given them. Witnesses (among others) : Will de Samlesbury, Ada de Hochton, Thomas de Hodersale.<sup>3</sup>

By Inq., held at Appleby, 20th October, 1292, it was found that the predecessors of the then Prior of the house of St. Saviour belonging to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in the time of Hen. III., after Charter made 37 Hen. III. (1252-3), had acquired

<sup>1</sup> This coffin-tomb is now covered up.

<sup>2</sup> Whit. *Whalley*, II, 464.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



(between 1258-72) two carucates of land, 100 acres of wood and moor, and 40s. rent in Dutton, Ribchester, and Aiton in Blackburnshyre, from a certain Adam *capellano custode domus Sancti Salvatoris de Dutton de assensu Alesie de Lasci*," during the minority of Henry de Lasci, Count of Lincolnshire, then chief lord.<sup>1</sup>

In the *Towneley MSS.* is a deed without date, but probably of the same date as the one just quoted, in which William, son of Richard de Dutton, granted to Adam de Blakeburne and his heirs an annual rent of 12d., which the grantor had "for the land of Alexander Bothcollet;" and an annual rent of 8d. for the land of "Adam the Forman." Witnesses: Lord Adam, master of the House of St. Saviour; Henry de Cundeslyne, John de Burnhul, Robert de Huntingdene, Richard Faber de Dutton, and Adam le Forman.<sup>2</sup>

From another deed, also without date (but probably 1285-90), we obtain the following information: Richard, son of Thomas of the Hirste, granted to the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and to the brethren of the same house serving God, abiding at St. Saviour in Ribbelisdale, all his right in eight acres of land in Goderithelegthenes in Ribbelcestria, which Walter Motun gave to the said Hospital. Witnesses: "Wm. de Mutton, Constable of Clyderhowe; Henry de Clayton, Hugh de Clyderowe, Wm. de Dutton, Edward de Osbaldiston, and Henry de Kitheley, then seneschall of Blackburnshire."<sup>3</sup>

In 12 Ed. III (1338) occurs the following, taken from the *Towneley MSS.* "To all faithful Christians to whom this writing shall come, I Philip de Tarig (?) Prior to the blessed house of Saint John of Jerusalem in England greeting." The Prior grants to Richard son of Adam Award de Dutton, and his heirs, five acres of land in Dutton, lying in the close called "Le Bankfield," and a plot of land in the same towne called "hychelayse," also a plot of land lying next to "Le Stone Brigg," on the western side called "Bernard Acre," also lands called "Londoles" and "Le Codee"; on payment of a yearly rent of 6s. 8d. at the feast of St. Michael. "These being witnesses: Brother Carte, Brother Radulph Gasget, Brother John Archer (?), Brother John de

<sup>1</sup> *Quo Warr*, 376, & (Whit. *Whalley* ii, 461).

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D., 1141.

<sup>3</sup> *Towneley MSS.*, D.D.

ffrough, Brother Simon fbandbunder (?), Brother John Tame. Given at Melsheburne."<sup>1</sup>

*Sciant Alexander Capellanus Magister hospital Sc'i Salvatoris et ejusdem Locifratres dedimus Ricardo filio Alicio de Salebury et heredibus Suis, illam terram quam habemus de dono Ranulphi de Salebury in puram elemosinam in Assarto de Clayfinlanog juxta viam cum commia pasture Reddendo inde Armuatium nobis et Successoribus duos denarios His testibus Waltero Clerico de Clayton Hugone de Hosbaldistun Swano de Hoddrishall Helya Clerico Willimo de Rayntum Willimo Racum Hugone de Helya Ricardo filio Radulfi aswardo ejusdem ville Roberto de Bolton Roberto de Clohus Ricardo de Salebury, et aliis.<sup>2</sup> (N.D.)*

Know that Robert de Cofil granted Adam de Blackburn and his heirs all the lands he had in the town of Dutton called le Hugh and le Berecroft, for a yearly payment of six silver pennies at the house of St. Saviour in Ribelesdale. Witnesses, Adam de Osbaldestone, William de Dutton, *et aliis*.<sup>3</sup> (N.D.)

In the same year, 1338, a most valuable report was drawn up by the Grand Prior of England. It has been printed by the Camden Society. From it we obtain an accurate account of the inner life of the Order, as well as a list of their possessions. Stydd is generally spoken of as being a "preceptory." Such was not the case: It was a "*Camera*"; one of the smaller estates under the preceptory of Newland, in Yorkshire. These *Camerae* were not of sufficient importance for the appointment of Commanders, and were either administered by bailiffs, or were farmed out. The proceeds from the lands of a *Camera* like Stydd went directly to the headquarters of the Order at Clerkenwell, and did not maintain any of the fraternity within their own limit. The reference to Stydd in the Report of Philip de Thame, the Grand Prior, is very brief. "Le Stede." Farmed out. Gross income, £6 13s. 4d. Expenditure, *nil*. Balance for Treasury, £6 13s. 4d. We give the reference as printed by the Camden Society:—*Camera Sancti Salvatoris, vocata le Stede, in Comitatu Lancastriæ—Et dimmittitur ad firmam, de anno in annum, reddendo inde ad Thesaurariam de Clerkenwell, ultra cantariam unius Capellani quam*

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., O.O. 1196.

<sup>2</sup> Towneley MSS., D.D. 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Towneley MSS., D.D. 2131.

*inveniet sumptibus suis propriis—Summa Valoris, summa patet x marcas.*<sup>1</sup> It may be thus translated:—"Station of our Holy Redeemer called Stede, in the same county (Lancaster)." And it is farmed out by the year with proceeds thence to the Clerkenwell treasury, besides one chaplain's chantry, which it will provide at its own cost, 10 marks. Total value, total, 10 marks.

Almost absolutely nothing is known of the history of the Manor for two centuries. It is probable that little or nothing of any importance took place. But, continuing our history of the Manor, we find that after the dissolution of the religious houses, the Manor of Stydd (along with other lands) was granted in 35 Hen. VIII. (1543) to Thomas Holt, Esquire, of Grizlehurst, for the sum of £1727 15s. 0d. In the Roll, Stydd is described as "Our Manor of Stede," with all the appurtenances lately belonging to the Priory or Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, formerly existing; "and parcel of the late possessions of the Preceptory formerly existing of Newland, co. York." The names of the tenements are given as "Sandholmes, Staynebrigge, Parkehyll, Southe Rakys Milne, Clowghe Banke, Ryecroft, Stedewoode, Clayes le Sands, Whyte Worthe, Hedlands, Maggot Hayes, and the Parke lying and existing in the parish of Stede;" and lately "demised or let to Alexander Osbaldestone and formerly part of the possessions of the late Order." The usual privileges of "Court Leet or Frank Pledge" are included among the provisions of the grant; the lands being held subject to the "service of the thirtieth part of a Knight's fee," and an annual rent of £9 11s. 0d. to the King and his heirs. Mention is also made of an annual rent of £4 10s. 0½d., to be paid for lands lately belonging to the late Monastery of Cockersand.<sup>2</sup>

In 5 Edw. VI. (1552), Thomas Holt, now Sir Thomas Holt, Kt., complained that "Dame Elyn Osbaldeston, widowe," [widow of the above mentioned Alexander Osbaldeston] being "fermor" of his lands in Stydd, had, during the last eight years, "caused a greate number of greate Trees" to be felled upon his land, and then converted them to her own use. The plaintiff affirmed that, during the last three years he had "required license" of his

<sup>1</sup> *Cumden Soc.*, 2, lxx., 111.

<sup>2</sup> *Patent Roll*, M 21, iv., 725.

tenant "for himself and his servants to come and go unto the greate trees and woods standing and being upon his own premises" in order that he might fell them according to his rights of ownership. Nevertheless Dame Osbaldeston "utterly denied and refused" his request; and when attempts had been made to remove the timber she caused "divers of her servaunts him wrongfully to stone and disturb." After reciting that the lands had formerley belonged to the "Commander of Newlande," and had been lett to one John Cowell for a term of years by Henry VIII., and that the right to fell trees had been excepted in the lease, Sir Thomas Holt prayed for Letters of Privy Seal.<sup>1</sup>

In the replies and counter-replies which followed from Dame Osbaldeston, Tristram Bollinge, and Sir Thomas Holt, nothing very material is elicited.

In 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary (1557-8), the Manor of Stydd was granted to the Prior and Brethren of St. John of Jerusalem, and their successors "to be held in pure and perpetual alms for ever."<sup>2</sup> Both Whitaker and Baines as well as all other writers on Stydd, omit to record this re-grant of their possessions to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Sir Thomas Tresham was at this time Grand Prior of the Order in England.

I give the following deed in full, as it seems to be of importance, and has never been even referred to by any previous writer on Stydd:—

"To the Right Honorable Sir Robt. Rochester, Knt. Sheweth . . . your orator, John Haworth of Sommertoun in the countie of Lincolne . . . that one John Haworth, grandfather of yo<sup>r</sup> said orator, was seased in his demesne as of fee at the will of the lord accordinge to the custome of the manor of stede in the countie of lanc. of and in one mease or tenement called the deane house and . . . viij acres used and occupied as p'cell and appertaininge vnto the said house . . . being in Dutton wthin the p'cinte . . . of the said manor of stede the wch said mease and viij acres . . . have been vsed to be svrendered wthin the courte of the said manor of stede in fee simple fee taile for life . . . to any person or persons that would reseave or take the same the tyme whereof the memore of mane is not to the contrary. And the said John Haworth so being seized . . . att Dutton did surrender and delivir all and singuler the premises accordinge to the custome of the said manor into the hands of one Thomas Tomlynson then steward of the said manor for this

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, vii., H 5.

<sup>2</sup> *Patent Roll*, xiv., R 931.

intent and consideration that the said Thomas Tomlynson shulde at the next Courte to be holden at the said manor of stede present the same deliver and surrender the same mease and eight acres of landes . . . into the handes of the lord of the manor of stede to the vse of the said John Havworth for term of his life the remainder vnto Thomas Havworth sone and heir of the said John and Anna his wife and their heirs.

The said Thomas Tomlynson at the next court holden 1st of June, 21 Henry sevynt (1505) surrendered the mease &c. into the hands of the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, then being lord of the said manor, that the said John Havworth might thereof be admitted tenant as is aforesaid rehearsed. The said John Havworth paid his fine, &c., and was put in seisin of the premiss' and admitted tenant . . . as by the copy of the rolles of the court of manor of stede doth appear . . . After which Thomas died in the life of John Havworth and after the said John died and the said Anna Havworth held by the custom of the said manor having issue Thomas and John Havworth now yor said orator and the said Anna seised of the premises at Osboston co. Lanc., did surrender at the next court . . .<sup>1</sup>  
 please your mastershippe . . . to graunt the king and queenes . . .  
 writ . . . directed to the said Robert Alstone commanding him . . .  
 personally to appear . . . in the court of the duchie of lanc. to answer to the said p'misses.

In 2 Eliz. (1560) a portion of the lands lately belonging to the dissolved monastery [of Cockersand?] was granted to Egidius Parker and Brian Parker, of London, gentlemen, for the sum of £595 11s. 4d. Reference is made in the Roll to lands lying in Ribchester, now or lately in the tenure of Godfey Dewhurst at an annual rent of 2s. 1d.<sup>2</sup>

In the same year (1560) a grant of lands formerly belonging to the late priory of St. John of Jerusalem in England was made to Nicholas Pynd and Thomas Reve, of London, gentlemen, for the sum of £2,040 15s. 4d. Among other lands were four acres called "Carlynghurst" in Dutton, in the tenure of Ralph Belfield, gentleman, to be held of the Queen as of her manor of East Greenwich.<sup>3</sup>

In 22 Eliz. (1580) a long Bill of Complaint was entered in the Duchy Court by Lady Alice Littleton, widow, late wife of Sir Edward Littleton, Kt., against Francis Holt, lord of the manor of Stydd, for breach of the marriage covenant between her daughter Constance and Thomas Holt, son and heir apparent of

<sup>1</sup> The MS. is here quite illegible from damp.

<sup>2</sup> *Patent Roll*, M. 32, iv., 951.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, M. 33, iii., 950.



the said Francis Holt. Six hundred marks (£200) was to be the bride's dowry; her father-in-law expectant promising to convey to certain trustees the manor of Stydd and other property. Instead of acting up to his part of the contract, Francis Holt was alleged to have secretly conveyed the property to some persons unknown to the complainant. She therefore wished to prevent her daughter's children from being disinherited.<sup>1</sup> Francis Holt duly answered the Bill of Complaint; nothing of importance, however, is contained in his reply.

We next meet with a grant which is rather puzzling. According to it, the manor of Stydd was granted, 9 Jas. I. (1612), to George and Thomas Whitmore, of London, gentlemen, "for various good causes and considerations." The various tenements enumerated are "a cottage in Stead in the occupation of Agnes Haworth, annual rent, 2d.; tenements in Cheping, Brabing, Thurnley, Chagley, Aighton, Baley, and Billingsfield, co. Lancaster, parcel or reputed parcel of the manor of Steade, annual rent, 18s. 4d.; annual rents or tithes of 19s. reserved on the lands granted to Richard Cromesholmes; a close called Wellfield in Dutton, annual rent, 4d.; a messuage in Dutton in the occupation of John Hayhurst, annual rent, 16s. 0d.; land in Dutton, in the occupation of John Woodcocke, annual rent, 12d.; tenement in Ribchester, called Dingley, in the occupation of Christopher Stead, annual rent, 7s. 0d.; land called Hemes, in Dutton, annual rent, 6d." Included in the grant are "the perquisites and privileges of the Court of our manor of Stead, which manor of Stead, and the premises mentioned, are of the clear annual value of £4 0s. 7d., and were formerly parcel of the possessions of the late Preceptory of Newland in the county of York."<sup>2</sup>

But, in 1650, "Mr. Holt, of Grizlehurst" is described in the Cromwellian Survey as "Lord of the manor of Steed," so that we feel inclined to look with suspicion on the statements contained in the Roll from which we have just quoted.

Summarising the above deeds we find that from about 1260 to 1544, the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem was Lord of the Manor of Stydd. From 1544 to 1557 Sir Thomas

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, lxxvii., lii.

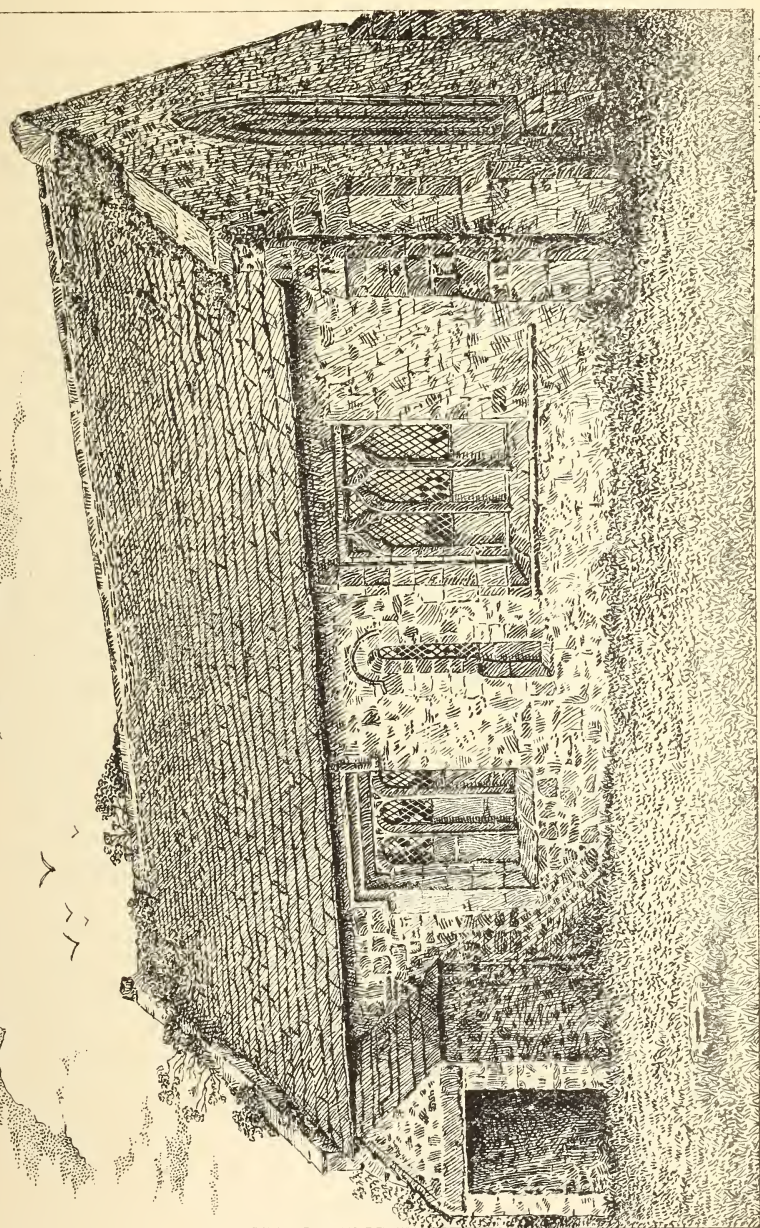
<sup>2</sup> *Patent Roll*, M 15, xxvii., 1924.

Holt, of Grizlehurst, was Lord of the Manor; in 1557 the lordship reverted to the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; and in 1559 Sir Thomas Holt again regained the Manor. From this time down to 1667 the Holts were Lords of the Manor. Then the Shireburnes of Stonyhurst purchased the manorial rights. Following the Shireburnes came the Walmesleys of Showley; and, finally, the present owners, who are Trustees for the Diocese of Salford. T. G. Walmesley, Esq., of Showley, granted the estate to certain trustees for the Diocese of Salford; the managing trustee is Mr. John Turner, solicitor, Preston. The estate is contiguous to the fabric of Stydd Church, except on the south side, where is the small cemetery.

### THE CHURCH.

Stydd Church is, without doubt, one of the oldest existing places of worship in the county Palatine. An exceedingly interesting history attaches to it, although much of its earlier history is lost in obscurity. The church is pleasantly situated on gently rising ground about half a mile to the north-west of the village of Ribchester. The way to it lies through winding country lanes and fertile meadows. The church itself is by no means a striking edifice, and at first sight is beheld with something akin to pain and disappointment. Built of the durable, though homely, grey grit-stone which abounds in the neighbourhood, and being in a somewhat dilapidated condition, as well as isolated and desolate, the fabric presents a rather melancholy sight. But when we remember its antiquity, and our minds become more closely identified with the hallowed associations of the sacred place, all thoughts of pity and regret vanish: we can only meditate upon its ancient glory and past owners.

In 1501, Nicholas Talbot left by will maintenance for a priest "to sing for twelve months at Stead, where fader and moder are buried." Canon Raines connects this Talbot with the Talbots of Bashall. The payment of a stipend of 40s. for a "curate" of Stydd was a charge on the property conveyed by Henry VIII. to Thomas Holt. I find, however, no mention of such a charge in the *Patent Roll*, from which I have quoted (see page 126); but that there was such a charge is, I think, quite clear. In 1650, "Steed" was returned as a parish church, "being a donative from



J. Miller, Lith. Preston.

STYDD CHURCH. S.E. VIEW.





the Abbot of Cockersand, but now from Mr. Holt, of Grizelhurst, Lord of the Manor of Steed," with £6 13s. 4d. per ann., "paid hitherto to the Minister att Ribchester, Beinge Accompted Parson at Steed." In 1690, Gastrell says, "the Vicar of Ribchester Instituted to Stidd, and invested w<sup>th</sup> all the Rights belonging to it." Its value in 1706, according to the same authority, was "£3 19s. 1d., viz., from Stidd Hall, £2; from 3 other Estates, 5s.; Composition for Tyth Hay, 1s.; Tyth Corn, £1 10s.; Composition w<sup>th</sup> Huntington Hall for Great Tythes, 3s.; for Tyth Hay, 1d."<sup>1</sup> At this time the "parish" of Stydd comprised 13 houses and 16 families. In Canon Raines's opinion, the Adowson of Stydd was not alienated by Thomas Posthumus Holt when he sold the Manor. However this may be, the Vicar of Stydd appears always to have been identical with the Rector of Ribchester, although not necessarily instituted at the same time. Now, at any rate, Stydd is merged in the parish of Ribchester.

It is generally supposed that divine service was only celebrated within the walls of Stydd Church twice in each year since the Reformation. But Bishop Gastrell distinctly states that it was "served by the Vicar on New Year's Day, Good Fryday, and some other Sundays in the summer time."<sup>2</sup> From 1830 to 1885 service was held once a month, and since 1885 every Sunday during the summer, and once a month in the winter time. Large congregations frequently assemble to join in a service conducted with a simplicity altogether in harmony with the character of "Old Stydd" itself.

The ground plan of the building forms a small parallelogram, 46ft. 5in. in length, by 20ft. 6in. wide, inside measurement, the only addition to it being a small and rather rude porch over the door on the south side, and there are remains of the masonry of other buildings to which the church was attached on its west side. The walls are thick, and have eight buttresses supporting them at the corners. The west wall has a door and two light windows side by side in the upper part of it—both blocked up with masonry. There is no bell turret. The whole of the north side retains its Norman features unaltered, having two narrow round-headed windows (9 inch lights), and a doorway between them with a dog-tooth label mould. The east wall has one three-light window

<sup>1</sup>*Cheth. Soc.*, xxii., 476.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 478.



of a later date. The south side exhibits great varieties of date and style in very small space. The doorway towards the west end has a beautifully moulded 13th century arch, with pillars on either side. The window next it is of three lights, nearly round-headed, and without cusps—the whole being square. The middle window is a Norman one like that on the north side, the splay being curiously widened out at the base. The easternmost is a square-headed, “perpendicular” window, with three cusped lights (15th century). The roof is covered with heavy stone tiles; and the ancient coping remains in part.<sup>1</sup> The church has a small cemetery (now disused) on the south side, in which are the remains of a stone cross. No tombstones are visible, although many interments formerly took place.

Inside, the original roof remains in part, being of simple tie-beam form, without king posts. One of the beams has the sacred monogram carved on its under side; and on another tie-beam is carved an emblem, said by some to represent the sun, or an eight-pointed star. A flight of stone steps (? originally leading to the Rood loft) now leads to a pulpit (on the south side) of good oak panelling. A rather curious screen of 17th or 18th century work, divides the Sanctuary from the rest of the church. Within the screen are modern and ugly painted wood seats. Only one of the original oak benches of good design remains. Forms are provided for worshippers in the body of the church. A small piscina, and a curious oak chest also remain.

The following interesting note appears in the Church Book:—  
“December y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>, 1703. Memorandum. This day Mr. Ogden, Vicar of Ribchester, gave y<sup>e</sup> Communion Table at Stid Church, and caused the long seat in the church to be fixt under the South Window: and has likewise bestowed a Dapper liinnen Cloth almost a yard and a half in length, and about y<sup>e</sup> same breadth, lettered in the middle, with these words, THIS FOR THE HOLY SACRAMENT AT STID—to be lodged and decently kept in or at y<sup>e</sup> clarks of Ribchester his hous for ever.”

<sup>1</sup> The above architectural description is mainly taken from a memorandum made in 1888 for the Rector of

Ribchester, by Mr. H. A. Prothero, Architect, Cheltenham.

Before describing the monuments and the font, I give Mr. Prothero's suggestions as to restoring the church. It will I think be allowed that his ideas are conceived in an antiquarian spirit ; and if carried out they will result in a much desired improvement to this historic and interesting church.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RESTORATION OF STYDD CHURCH.

Writing in July, 1888, Mr. Henry Allen Prothero, of the firm of Middleton, Prothero, and Phillott, Cheltenham, says:—"The whole thing is very charming just as it is, and outside it should be repaired and made good where it is decayed, *without any alteration*, or even any unnecessary touches to its stone work. The only exceptions to this recommendation are :—

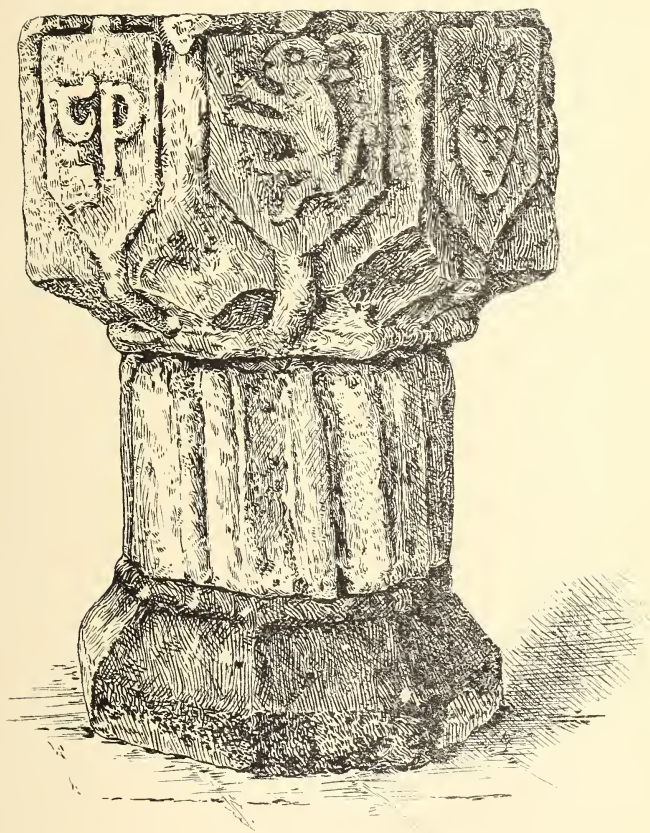
(a) That a new and more decent east window should replace the present one. (b) That plain crosses should be placed on the two gables. (c) And that the porch should be rebuilt. The roof should be stripped and the timber carefully examined. New trusses will probably be required, and boarding would be better than the present plaster. Good English oak should be used throughout. The present stone tiles should be carefully taken off and used again, supplemented with others like them. The plastering should be carefully repaired. It is not unlikely that painting may be found under the present whitewash. Search should be made for it. The walled up west window should be opened out. Also the north door. The stone flagging might remain for the most part, supplemented perhaps with plain tiles. The monumental stones should be carefully preserved (and not turned out of the church.) The font should remain untouched, but a cover might be provided for it. The steps at the east end should be rearranged. Of the old fittings, the pulpit should be preserved. If the sounding board can be found, it should be replaced. The remains of the screen, though curious, as shewing the past existence of a tradition, are practically beyond preservation. A new screen might be put up. Oak seats might be placed in the chancel. Chairs would suffice in the nave ; if permanent seats are adopted they might be like the old bench now left, which ought in any case to be preserved. As the church will now be in regular use, it should be lighted and warmed. Hanging lamps of suitable design should be procured

and a stove in the north-west corner would probably be found sufficient for warming the church, with a good thick padded curtain over the door. It is difficult to estimate the outlay really *necessary* for repairs, etc.—but probably from £500 to £600 would do the whole substantially and well.”

For years people have talked about restoring Stydd church, but nothing of any moment has been done. We are therefore glad to learn that the present Rector of Ribchester has made a beginning. The nucleus of a “Restoration Fund” was formed in October, 1889, at a meeting held at Stydd, of the “Order of the Temple, Prince of Peace Preceptory, Preston.” It is to be hoped that the restoration scheme will meet with hearty support, not merely in the district but all over England.

We now turn to the font and monuments in the church. The font stands on the north-east side of the church; it is octagonal in shape, and made of dark grit-stone. Its rugged and massive appearance (see illustration) is considerably enhanced by the strong broad foundation of stone upon which it rests. On the upper part are shields bearing the following sacred and heraldic monograms and devices:—(1) Jesus. (2) Heart, hands, and feet of Christ. (3) The initials T. P., possibly intended to denote the donor, of whom many (all probably inaccurate) conjectures have been made. I venture to suggest that the monogram refers to Sir Thomas Pemberton, who was Preceptor of Newland, under which Stydd was a *camera*. Many authorities consider that P. stands for Prior and not for a surname, others think the letters stand for Turcopolier—one of the official titles of the Order of St. John; but, however this may be, it is not a little remarkable that in the chapel attached to the Preceptory of Newland, it is stated that there was some stained glass with coats of arms on it. Among others are:—“Or, on a cross sable, five bulls’ heads argent, two and three gules, and a chevron between three pheons argent.”<sup>1</sup> It will be noticed that these arms are very similar to those marked 7 and 8 on the font at Stydd. And as Sir Thomas Pemberton followed close after Thomas Newport, as Preceptor of Newland, it seems probable—the arms of Newport being on the

<sup>1</sup> Banks’s *Walks about Wakefield*, 242, 3.

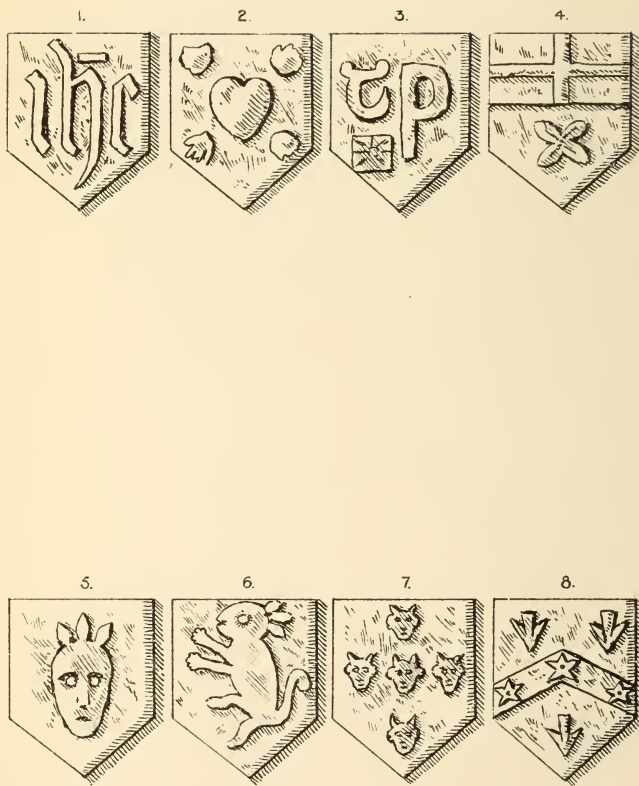


FONT AT STYDD CHURCH.









SHIELDS ON FONT AT STYDD CHURCH.

font at Stydd—that the font may have been a gift to the *camera* from the Preceptory. But to resume the description of the shields. (4) A quatrefoil on a chief a long cross. (5) A leopard's head jessant-de-lis, the arms of Cliderhowe of Salesbury. (6) Lion rampant jessant-de-lis, the arms of Hothersall of Hothersall.<sup>1</sup> (7) Five bulls' heads cabossed in cross. (8) On a chevron between three pheons as many mullets, the arms of Newport, of Salop.

We must confess that we feel glad we are able to give a fuller explanation of this old font than has been given before. Dr. Whitaker makes no attempt to explain any of the arms save one (No. 4) which he assigns to the Knights Hospitallers. Other writers confess their inability to say to what families the shields belonged, although Latham deliberately asserts, without any proof whatever, “that the shields on the upper part bear the arms of the Talbot family, but no date.”<sup>2</sup> Every effort has been made to identify shields Nos. 4 and 7, but without success. It is, however (as I have said), possible that the font was a gift to Stydd from the Preceptor of Newland.<sup>3</sup> I ought to add that I am much indebted to Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., F.S.A., and Mr. Joseph Gillow, for their help in the matter.

We next turn to the monuments in the church. Dr. Whitaker's description of the condition of these monuments in 1790-1800 is very graphic. “But the inside of this small, neglected edifice is still more interesting, having had divine service only twice a year since the Reformation; no reading desk was ever erected, and prayers are read out of the pulpit, which is durably elevated on a basis of stone; opposite [*i.e.*, on the north side] appears a coffin-tomb of high antiquity, broken open, and the fragments lying in most picturesque disorder, the floor strewed with ancient grave-stones, some inscribed with Longobardic letters, now too obscured to be retrieved, and by way of contrast to this scene of squalid

<sup>1</sup> This is only conjectural, the arms being so common.

<sup>2</sup> Latham's *Stydd Chapel*, 15.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Newport was Preceptor of Newland and Temple-Bruer, Receiver of Common Treasury, made Turcopolier, nominated Grand Prior in 1501, and Bailli of Aquila by Mutation in 1502. He was a member of a distinguished Shropshire family.

During the siege of Rhodes in 1522, he persisted in embarking from Dover in a violent storm, and was lost at sea with all his forces. (*Vide* Porter's *Knights of Malta*, ii., 289, 295, 322.) Sir Thomas Pemberton, Kt., a member of a well known Northamptonshire family, was Preceptor of Newland 1535 to 1538, shortly after which the Order was dissolved.

antiquity, here lies under a slab of beautiful white marble the late Catholic Bishop Petre, who lived and died at Showley.”<sup>1</sup> The coffin-tomb here mentioned by Dr. Whitaker is thus commented upon by the Rev. E. L. Cutts:—“A very curious stone; this and the example from Rivenhall are the only English examples which have been met with in which the canopy is introduced.”<sup>2</sup> The tomb, “which had been broken into for the lead of the inner envelope,” was inscribed with the “double cross” of the Templars. An engraving of it is in the *History of Richmondshire*. The cross is now completely worn off the tomb. In the floor, beneath where the altar once stood, is a double coffin-stone, having two floriated crosses upon it. Although considerably defaced, and a portion of it lost, we are able to make out the inscription, which is in Longobardic characters:—

AMEN. HIC. IACET. DOMINVS. ADA. DE. CLIDEROV.  
M(ILES). (P)ROPICIETVR. DEVS— HIC. IACET. . . .  
ADE. CVIVS. A.IE. P.PICIETVR DEVS.

The Cliderhowes of Salisbury were, as we have seen in Chapter I., large benefactors to Ribchester and Stydd, as well as to the adjoining chapel at Bailey. An illustration of this coffin-stone is in Cutts’s *Sepulchral Slabs*, plate lxiv. Adjoining Sir Adam and Lady Alicia de Cliderhowe’s tombstone are two others bearing crosses, without inscription. The last visible inscribed tombstone is that of Bishop Petre. The inscription cut on the white marble stone is as follows:—“*Hic jacet Illust’mus et Rev’dus D. Franciscus Petre de Fithlars, ex inclyta et vetusta prosapia, in comitatu Essexiæ, Episcopus Amoriensis et Vic. Apostol. in Districtu septent. Quem viginti quatuor annos provide ac solícite moderatus beneficentis et apostolicis virtutibus fovit et ornavit, tum plenus dierum bonorumque operum, præmissis multis elemosynis, obiit in Domino Anno æt. suæ LXXXIV., die XXIV. Decembris, anno MDCCLXXV. R.I.P.*” Translated, its meaning is:—Here lies the most Illustrious and Reverend Lord Francis Petre, of Fithlars, of an illustrious and ancient family in the county of Essex, Bishop of Amoria and Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District; which he governed with discernment and care for 24 years, being its patron and ornament by his kind acts and

<sup>1</sup> Whit. *Whalley*, ii., 466.

<sup>2</sup> Cutts’s *Sepulchral Slabs*, 86.

apostolic virtues: then full of days and good deeds, after bestowing many alms he died in the Lord on the 24th December of the year 1775, of his age the 84th. May he rest in peace.

Some account of Bishop Petre may be interesting. The Right Rev. Francis Petre, born in 1691, was the second son of Joseph Petre, Esq., of Fithlers, co. Essex, by Catherine, daughter of Sir W. Andrews, of Denton, Bart. He was educated at Douay College, where he was known by the name of "Squib," *aliases* being necessary in times of persecution, and continued through custom till a late period. He was elected coadjutor to Bishop Dicconson, V.A., of the Northern District, *cum jure successionis*, July 7, 1750, and was consecrated Bishop July 27, 1751. He succeeded to the Northern Vicariate upon the death of Bishop Dicconson, April 24, 1752, and governed till his death at Showley Hall, where he principally resided, Dec. 24, 1775, aged 84. In the Parish Register, Bishop Petre's burial is thus recorded: "1775, Dec. 27, Francis Petre, Esq., Showley, a Romish Bis'p."



## CHAPTER IV.

**The Rectors of Ribchester.**

1246. (Before.)	Drogo.
1246.	Imbertus.
1292.	Robert de Pokelington.
1343. (Before.)	Walter de Wodehouse.
1343.	William de Wakefield.
1351.	William de Horneby.
1364.	John de Lincoln.
1367. (Before.)	Lambert de Thyrcyngham.
1367.	William Bolton.
1391-2.	Richard de Wallmesley.
1395.	John Farmer.
1414. (About.)	John del More.
1419.	Richard Coventre.
1419.	John Ellyswyk.
1466. (Before.)	Robert Bromlaw.
1476-7.	William Talbot.
1505.	Robert Crombleholme.
1527.	William Clayton.
1532.	Thomas Thirleby.
1542-3.	George Wolfytt.
1552.	James Liungard.
1572.	Christopher Alsop.
1573-4.	Henry Norcrosse.
1616.	Richard Learoyde.
1617-8.	Christopher Hindley.
1647.	William Ingham.
1681.	George Ogden.
1706.	Thomas Johnson.
1738-9.	John Heber.
1775.	John Griffith.
1776.	John Atkinson.
1798.	Isaac Relph.

1801.	James Quartley.
1829.	Boulby Thomas Haslewood.
1876.	Frederick Eugene Perrin.
1885.	Francis John Dickson.

DROGO (BEFORE) 1246.

Dr. Whitaker says, "Drogo, parson of Ribbecestria, was drowned in Rybel."

IMBERTUS, 1246.

Of this Rector but little is known.

ROBERT DE POKELINGTON, 1292.

I have not found any mention of this Rector. Dr. Whitaker includes him in the list of Rectors.

WALTER DE WODEHOUSE (BEFORE), 1343.

Dr. Whitaker states that Walter de Wodehouse resigned the living in 1343.

WILLIAM DE WAKEFIELD, 1343.

This Rector was instituted 10th Nov., 1343, on the presentation of Queen Isabella. He is styled "*capellanus*."

WILLIAM DE HORNEBY, 1351.

In a deed dated 37 Ed. III. (1363) "*Will'us de Horneby persona de eccl'iæ de Ribblecester, et Johannes de Horneby, persona de eccl'iæ de T . . athum*" occurs.<sup>1</sup>

JOHN DE LINCOLN, 1364.

This Rector was instituted 1st March, 1364. Dr. Whitaker calls him a "presbiter," and says he resigned the living.<sup>2</sup>

LAMBERT DE THYRKYNTHAM (BEFORE), 1367.

Nothing is known, so far as I am aware, of this Rector.

WILLIAM BOLTON, 1367.

William Bolton, chaplain, was instituted 27th Feb., 1367, on the presentation of John of Gaunt (as were the next six Rectors). He resigned the living, but no date is given.

RICHARD DE WALLMESLEY, 1391-2.

This Rector, who is not mentioned by Whitaker, was party to a deed dated 16 Ric. II., between John Nicson de Ribblecester and Richard Ayglat de Dilword, concerning a piece of land in Ribchester called "Nicson Hayhirst."

<sup>1</sup>Piccoppe MS.S., iv., 3.

<sup>2</sup>Whit. *Whalley*, ii., 462.

## JOHN FARMER, 1395.

This Rector was instituted 8th Nov., 1395. He is designated "clerk," and resigned the living.

## JOHN DEL MORE (ABOUT) 1414.

Nothing is known about this Rector, except that Dr. Whitaker states that he resigned the living.

## RICHARD COVENTRE, 1419.

This Rector was instituted 5th April, 1419. He was a clerk, and resigned the living.

## JOHN ELLYSWYCK, 1419.

Instituted (according to Dr. Whitaker) 3rd Dec., 1419, John Ellyswyk (or Elleswick) held the living over thirty years. In 29 Hen. VI. (1451), Thomas Coke de Ribchester gave John Talbot, and John Ellyswyk, Rector of the Church of Ribchester, a parcel of land called "Nieson place," in Ribchester.<sup>1</sup>

## ROBERT BROMLAW (BEFORE) 1466.

Nothing is known, so far as I am aware, of this Rector.

## WILLIAM TALBOT, 1476-7.

This Rector was son of Giles Talbot, of Slaidburn, and was descended from the Talbots of Bashall. According to Whitaker's pedigree printed in the *History of Craven*, the Rev. William Talbot was a son of Edmund Talbot of Bashall. This is a palpable error. In 5 Edw. IV. (1465) John Talbot de Salesbury, Esquire, confirmed to John Baron, John Atherton, Thomas Talbot, Esquires; William Talbott, Rector of Ribchester Church, and Lawrence Ashton, Rector of Ashton-under-Lyne, all the lands, etc., which he had in the county of Lancaster.<sup>2</sup> In 8 Edw. IV. (1469), he is described as "*Capellanus nup., de Edisford in p'ochia de Clyderhowe.*" Quoting from the *Rolls of Parliament*, Whitaker says that in June, 1467, Edward IV. reserved the grant made to Edmund and Richard Talbot of the next presentation of a covenabill and abille persone to the parishe chirche of Ribbylchestr.<sup>3</sup> The Rev. William Talbot, who is called "doctor," resigned the living before 16 March, 1496-7.

<sup>1</sup> *Towneley* MS.S., D.D., 490, 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley* MSS.

<sup>3</sup> *Hist. of Whalley*, ii., 462.

## ROBERT CROMBLEHOLME, 1496-7.

The Rev. Robert Crombleholme was presented to Ribchester, 16 March, 12 Hen. VII. (1496-7.) He resigned before 31 July. 1527.

## WILLIAM CLAYTON, 1527.

This rector was presented 31 July, 1527, under the King's authority by John Voysey, "*Decano Capelle nostre*" and Edward Belknap, Knt. He died in 1532.

## THOMAS THIRLEBY, 1532.

The Rev. Thomas Thirleby was presented 21 Dec., 1532. He died before 9 June, 1542.

## GEORGE WOLFYTT, 1542.

The Rev. George Wolfytt, or Wolset, LL.D., was instituted on the King's presentation on 9 June, (or 9 Feb. according to Whitaker) 1542. He was also incumbent of Chipping, and was nominated by Sir Richard Hoghton of Lea, as chantry priest of the Dutton chapel; but Canon Raines says, "it is uncertain whether his presentation to this richly endowed chantry came into operation." In 1547, Dr. Wolfytt was one of the King's preachers for the county of Lancaster. His relations with some of his parishioners were not very cordial, judging from the following statement made by him to the Chancellor of the Duchy:—

In most humble and lamentable wise shewith and complayneth vnto yor most Honorable good Maistershippe yor humble suppliant and daily Orator George Wolfet Clerke doctor of lawe and Chapleyn to our late sovereign Lorde of famouse memory Kynge Henry the eight Thatt where yor said Orator hath and holdith nowe towe benyfices or parsonages sett and beyng within the Countie of lanc. of the gift and graunt of our late sovereign Lorde the one beyng called Ribchester and the other Chypppyng in the which yor said Orator accordyng to his abilitie and of his charitable mynde of longe tyme borne towards his pore parishioners and other the Kynges subiectes there for the relieff of whom yor saide Orator hath always vsed and yet vsith to kepe his hospitalitie famelye and housholde there towardes the reffressyng and helpyng of the povertie of his saide parishes And So itt is nowe right honorable sir thatt yor said Orator in perseveryng thus his charitable mynde and purpose accordyng vnto his bounden dewtye hath byn of late gretly inquieted vexid and troblet by one Robt. Bootman Mynstrell one of yor said Orators parishioners beyng a man of a ffrowarde and a perverse mynde the which by the investigacon and intysement of one Sir Richarde Sherebourn Knyght beyng a man of an exacte power and auctorite within the said Countie of Lanc. entending the utter vndoing of your said Orator and

of his pore famely for ever And thereby to dryve away yor said Orator and his said famelye from the habitacon of his said benyfices And also in lettynge yor said Orator in extendyng his said charitable almes to pore parishioners of his said parissches hath of late entred with force of armes contrary to the Kýnges peace the bases (?) of yor Orator called the parsons buttes leing and beyng within the feldes of his said parische of Ribchester and wasted and consumpnyed the grace then therapon growyng att his Will and pleasure butt also into a certen tenement and house of yor said Orators lying within the Town of Ribchester aforesaide the whiche havynge the possession thereof by wronge as above is said and without the Will and Aggreement of yor said Orator did nowe of late by negglygence burne the same House and as the common voyce and fame goith Willyngly to the gret hyndraunce and damage of yor said Orator and also to the gret perill and Jubberty of consumyng of the hole towne And also the said Robt. haith nott only bett and strikken dyvers of the pore parisschoners of yor said Orator beyng ympetent and for aged whythe owt any resonable cause by them gyven by the which strokkes they were in danger of there lives butt also did cause them to be indited prively att a generall sessions there to the grett damage and hyndraunce of them And to the grete feare of all the rest of the poore of the said parrishes And also hath caused yor seid Orator and other of his famely to be in suche feare by his maliciose demeanor and threttenynges and other of his adherentes that yor said Orator and other of his saide householdes dare not repare to his Church of Ribchester for the execucon of there dutye accordyngly. In consideacon whereof it may please yor acceptable goodnes always to right equitie Justes and quiete extended to do call afore yor good Maisterschippe the said Robt. Boteman and Sir Richarde Sherebourn and one John Booteman Mynstrell an nother of the adherentes of the same Robt. And them nott only to enjoyne for there good aberyng and behavior towards yor said Orator and other of the Kynges subiectes there but also to cause them and every of them to recompence and satisfye yor said Orator of his grett costes damages and Charges by hym susteyned in thatt behalf And yor said Orator shall daily pray vnto Allmyghty god for yor good Maistershipps estate long to enduere.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Wolfytt died in 1553 or 1554. His will is thus cited by Canon Raines :—

“February 1st, 1552-3, George Wulfet, doctor of lawe—to be buried within the chauncel of Rybchester yf I dye there er e's where in Christen man's buryall—to every one of my godchyldren within Rybchester, Chepen and Wishawe parishins xiid. to put them in remembrance to praye for my soule. To Alyce Cragge doughter to John Cragge a doughter to my suster Alyce his wief iii li, to be payd by William Wren—to William Cragge brother to the said Alyce iii li to be payd by my brother Jeffrey Wolfet. I wyll my scarlet gowne lyned with blacke damaske and my beste murrey gowne having the sleeves and the forequarters lyned with tawney sarcenet to

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Pleadings*, ii., W 13,



be praised and solde and the money to be bestowed on the poore householders—the residue to be dispersed by my executors in charitable dedes to the pleasure of Almighty God and comfurthe of the poore and indigent people, not meanyng hereby to burden or charge his conscience in suche bestowinge but onlie to commytte the same to his discrecion, accordinge to such expectation and affiance which I haue to him—my brother Jeffrey Wolfet executor and Robert Patchett and Syr Thomas Thorpe overseers. Proved 7th August 1554, by Mr. Robert Cressie official of the Archdeacon of Notts.”<sup>1</sup>

SIR JAMES LIUNGARD (BEFORE) 1562.

Sir James Liungard was instituted in 1569 according to the *Piccope* MSS., but John Townley, of Dutton, by his will dated 1562, left “to Sir James Liungard, Vicar of Ribchester, xiijs iiijd.”<sup>2</sup> He resigned in 1571-2.

CHRISTOPHER ALSOP, 1571-2.

This rector was instituted 22 March, 1571-2, according to the *Piccope* MSS., and resigned in 1573-4.

HENRY NORCROSSE, 1573-4.

The Rev. Henry Norcrosse was instituted 9 March, 1573-4, on the presentation of John Whitaker, or Whitacre, of Henthorn, Esq. Little, if anything, is known about him, although he apparently held the living for over forty years. The Norcrosses are an old Ribchester family, and it is supposed one of his sons was George Norcrosse “scholler of Cletherall” who received “ij yeardes wollen and ij linen, and ijs iiijd in money.”<sup>3</sup> The burial of Mr. Norcrosse is thus recorded in the register: “1623, Aug. 14., Henry Norcrosse, Viccar de Ribchester.”

RICHARD LEAROYDE, 1616.

The Rev. Richard Learoyde, B.A., (or Learoide) was instituted on the presentation of the King, 17 Dec., 1616; and on Jan. 21, 1616-17 was instituted to the “rectory of Stidde”<sup>5</sup> on the presentation of Francis Holte, of Grizlehurst, lord of the manor of Stydd. Mr. Learoyde was vicar for a very short time, resigning in 1617. He was one of the curates of the Collegiate Church of Manchester; and in 1622 “was presented for serving divers that refused to kneel at the Communion and for not having read the Canons.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Chet. Soc.*, lx., 195-6.

<sup>2</sup> *Surtees Soc.*, *Rich. Wills*.

<sup>3</sup> *The Spending of money of Robert Nowell.*

<sup>4</sup> *Raines MSS.*

He died 22 August, 1623, and was buried in the Collegiate Church of Manchester. His goods were valued at £94 0s. 10d.

CHRISTOPHER HINDLEY, 1618,

The Rev. Christopher Hindley, or Hindle, was instituted 5 Feb. 1617-18, on the presentation of the Bishop of Chester. Mr. Abram (who has written an interesting account of the Hindley family)<sup>1</sup> thinks that the Rev. C. Hindley was baptised at Harwood Church, 10 March, 1592; "and that he was the son either of John Hindley, or of Andrew, both of Cowhill." I have been unable to ascertain who he married. He had five children, four baptised at Ribchester, "Rodae Hindley daughter of Christopher Hindley, Vicker of Ribchester Church," bapt. March 14, 1623-4; Elizabeth, bapt. Jan. 14, 1626-7; Anne, bapt. March 7, 1629-30; Andrew, bapt. April 16, 1620-1; and Jane, bapt. at Blackburn, April 28, 1633. The story of Vicar Hindley's sufferings, and the bold stand he made for his place and principles has been told with much eloquence by the Rev. John Walker. We are able to amplify the narrative from the original MSS.

Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy* is well known. But his diligence and patient industry in compiling that work—a task which occupied nine years—are not generally known. The valuable collection of his papers in Bodley's Library, Oxford, proves the admirable method of the preparation of his great work. In the *Sufferings of the Clergy* a very vivid account is given of the case of the Rev. Christopher Hindley (or Hindle), but in vol. iii. of the Walker MSS. a more detailed account of the Vicar of Ribchester's sufferings is to be found in the bold handwriting of the Rev. George Ogden, the immediate successor of Hindley's great opponent Ingham. From these MSS. the following account is taken: it is to be regretted that a portion of Mr. Ogden's letter is torn off. Mr. Hindley was a staunch royalist, and appears to have been formally deprived of his living in 1647. He continued, however, to preach in the church until 1649, when the following scene took place. "I have lately been at Ribchester (says Mr. Ogden, under date Nov. 23, 1705), and have here enclosed sent you a certificate or some remarks upon y<sup>e</sup> life of Mr.

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. of Blackburn*, 638-40.

Hindle and Mr. Ingham, my Predecessors, both vicars of Ribchester, in Lancashire. Mr. Ingham was an inferior, ignorant man in comparison of Mr. Hindle, and a religious knave. I need give but this one instance among a thousand. Ignorant Ingham ingratiating himself with some fiery, rebellious zealots in this Parish, procured a Certificate or Letter Commendatory under their hands, and also about thirty pounds in money, making them believe he would only be Minister of Longridg Chapell in y<sup>e</sup> Parish of Ribchester, but away goes Ingham to London and “procures some authority to be vicar or Minister of Ribchester Church and to eject Mr. Hindle because he was an honest, sober, loyal, Episcopal Clergyman. Thus he was forced to quit his place. But Mr. Christopher Hindle was a man whose fframe will never dye till vertue and Learning shall become so useless as not to be regarded.

“’Tis reported from persons of great worth and Credit, y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> said Mr. Hindle in Cromwell’s time was summon’d to appear before a sort of an Assembly of Divines, at Whalley, 4 miles from Ribchester. Mr. Hindle did appear with an Hebrew Bible, and other Hebrew Books, and by his Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, he confuted and confounded them all with all their English Oratory. They found both his courage and Learning very great.

“When Ingham had got into y<sup>e</sup> pulpit one Sunday morning at Ribchester to eject Mr. Hindle by y<sup>e</sup> help of his wicked accomplices, they say, Mr. Hindle standing upon y<sup>e</sup> highest Pulpit Step, preached a Sermon, or utter’d a speech to his friends, some of Oliver Cromwel souldiers being present, thus, or to this effect :

“‘My dear Friends and Parishoners (The introductory paragraph is unfortunately too much torn to be printed. Mr. Hindle continues :)

“‘First to begin with that which should be most dear unto a Nation our Holy Mother, y<sup>e</sup> Church and y<sup>e</sup> Establishment of Religion in its purity, and lustre, who is not sensible how far y<sup>e</sup> Ark of God, namely our Religion, y<sup>e</sup> glory of our English Israel, and y<sup>e</sup> Christian worlds, has been prophan’d by Sacrilegious hands? whilst the name of Gospel, and Reformation, has been used as a stalking hors to cloak y<sup>e</sup> blackest designs, y<sup>e</sup> sun ever look’t upon ; insomuch y<sup>t</sup> the Church of England, may complain

and cry out as once y<sup>e</sup> church of Israel did (Esa xxiv. 16). *My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me; the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously, yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.*

“The Prince of Darkness is never so perniciously fortunate in his mischief as when he transforms himself into an Angel of Light: How well our Religion is reformed and secured your selves may judge by y<sup>e</sup> present complexion of our dear mother stript, mangled, and wounded to death by y<sup>e</sup> sons of her own bowels, her Government dissolved, her Doctrine trampled into a puddle, the extracted purely from the fountain of living water; her Discipline threaten’d nor daring to appear against professed Heresies and Blasphemys; her sacred forms of worship vilify’d and scorned; her Embassadors of Christ for Peace and reconciliation imprison’d, disturb’d in their own churches, impoverish’t and reputed as the filth and off scouring of y<sup>e</sup> world; her Temples either defaced or demolish’t, or els lock’t up by a wicked Military Power, and lastly y<sup>e</sup> true Protestant Religion is now squeezed into such a narrow room, that few or none dare own . . . . fession of it, that we are obliged to ma. . . . solemn protestation.

“But, as if all this was not guilt enough to weigh them down to the bottomless Pit, there have been added to that Scarlet Sin of Murthur, y<sup>e</sup> Blood of one Sacred Person, of more value, than ten thousand of the best of his subjects, the light of our eyes and the Breath of our Nostrils, in whose life and Government all the Thousands that reside within these three kingdoms are really concerned, and nearly concerned, as in y<sup>e</sup> life of their Common Parent. An Act so horrid and prodigious, that no language can express it: so no History can parallel it. It is no slight contribution that some of you have given to y<sup>e</sup> miserys we complain of but know not how to remedy. A man may be accessory to the guilt of Blood-shedding more wayes than perhaps you are aware of. Two onely I shall name, 1st the contributing assistance to y<sup>e</sup> Fact before it is committed; and 2ly by approbation, and justification of y<sup>e</sup> fact, after it is committed.

“I would to God it was in the Power of my Prayers, to clear those who sit at Westminster of this deep guilt; and some of you of your assistance, and adherence to them in contracting it; and y<sup>t</sup> we may not incur y<sup>e</sup> divine wrath as y<sup>e</sup> people of Israel did,

when they sinned themselves out of y<sup>e</sup> Blessing of a King; See how God threatens them, with a severe punishment (Esa iii. 5.) *Ye people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his Neighbour; y<sup>e</sup> Child shall behave himself proudly against y<sup>e</sup> Ancient, and the base against the Honorable.'"*

Mr. Ogden then goes on to give the account of eye-witnesses of the scene. "Thos. Cutler, now Saxton of Ribchester Ch: was saxton in y<sup>e</sup> tyme of Mr. Hindle's p'sentation. The s<sup>d</sup> Thos. declares that he was in y<sup>e</sup> ch: when Mr. Ingham was sett in y<sup>e</sup> pulpitt (Mr. Ingham and his wicked crew got y<sup>e</sup> pulpitt before Mr. Hindle came in) and Mr. Hindle came to preach, but Ingham would not suffer him to come into y<sup>e</sup> pulpitt, so y<sup>t</sup> Mr. Hindle then did preach standing upon y<sup>e</sup> high step, ffarther y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Thos. Cutler declares y<sup>t</sup> he knew old Ric. Hayhurst, who was Ring-leader of all y<sup>e</sup> Rude Rabble ag<sup>t</sup> Mr. Hindle—he had many sons, 7 or 8—but 3 especially viz.:—Wm., John, and Jonathan, under their father's direction and appointmentwere y<sup>e</sup> most furious p's'ters of Mr. Hindle, and Benj. Hayhurst . . . . . ; this Jonathan was Captain, this Benja was Lieutenant, this John was purse bearer, and py<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> wicked crew. Notwithstanding this hot persecution ag<sup>t</sup> Mr. Hindle it is declared y<sup>t</sup> Mr. Ingham went up to London and cunningly gott ord<sup>d</sup> for Ribch. Church, and so threw Mr. Hindle out."

James Etsford declares: "he knows Mr. Hindle very well, y<sup>t</sup> he was about 60 years old when he was a preacher at Rib., and was very well appr<sup>d</sup> of, both for his life and doctrine; he was about 30 y<sup>rs</sup> vicar of Ribel<sup>r</sup>; he never had above 20 marks per an.: and, further, y<sup>e</sup> saide James declares that he (Mr. Hindle) preached 16 years and had little or no wages at all, and one of his parishioners, Mr. Jonathan Hayhurst, a (c . . . ) Oliv<sup>r</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> tyme, and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Hindle a full kingsman and godfather to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Edf<sup>d</sup> after he had done preaching in y<sup>e</sup> ch. he gave him ro. egg (?) and pusht him also with his hand upon y<sup>e</sup> sholder to cast him upon his face (and said, 'There, ye Vicar! Is this man fitt to preach, and is drunk?')—but it was a reflection, and a very false and lying slander thrown upon y<sup>e</sup> gentleman with y<sup>e</sup> mouth of envy and deadly hatred; but y<sup>e</sup> Cpt. himself was drunk, and had



been drinking all day. And a br. [brother] of y<sup>e</sup> C'ptain and a hot Oliverian, John Hayhurst, overtook Vicer Hindle, who was called Christopher Hindle, in y<sup>e</sup> rode [*sic*] betwixt Preston and Ribchester, and knockt him off his horse, as y<sup>e</sup> Vicar related with his own mouth to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> James, and other bigg boys about 14 or 16 years old, and said to them also y<sup>t</sup> yonder villane, John Hayhuist, had burst his head, and 'but for y<sup>e</sup> wisdom of God had taken my life.' These 2 p'sons and others with . . . . . maketh and unjustly contrived false oaths ag<sup>st</sup> y<sup>e</sup> parson (they charged him, and some other base fellows swore ag<sup>t</sup> him, y<sup>t</sup> he was an adulterer, a drunkard, a blasphemer, a conjurer—all which was very false, and unjustly layd ag<sup>st</sup> him). And all y<sup>e</sup> p'rish know the cause why the Hayhursts and some other base fellows did so p'eute him was because he (Mr. Hindle) was a Kingsman and they Oliverians."

The Rev. George Ogden states that he found "in Mr. Hindle's manuscripts that he had the consent, approbation, subscription, and petition of y<sup>e</sup> Parishioners of Blackburn Town and Parish, for y<sup>e</sup> Vicarage of Blackburn, worth about £150 per annum, in y<sup>e</sup> gift of y<sup>e</sup> Arch Bp. of Canterbury, but y<sup>e</sup> iniquity and charge of y<sup>e</sup> Times hindred."<sup>1</sup> Mr. W. A. Abram, the historian of Blackburn, says, however, that Mr. Ogden's statement is irreconcilable with facts. For in 1661 "a petition of the parishioners" of Blackburn "was presented to the King, which recites explicitly that the inhabitants of Blackburn parish did, in the year 1647, '*unanimously*, without the opposition of one man, elect and chuse Mr. Leonard Clayton, Master of Arts, etc., to be our Vicar, the place being vacant by the death of the former incumbent.'"<sup>2</sup>

The facts appear to be that, after his forcible expulsion from Ribchester Church, Mr. Hindley went to live with his brother John Hindley at the family farm at Cowell, near Blackburn, for we find James Etsford stating that he knew Mr. Hindle 'had land of his own at Cowel, in Blackburn parish, and there he lived many years, and came and preached at Ribchester and at Cowel. He died about three years before the King's return.' Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Walker MS.S., vol. iii.

<sup>2</sup> Manch. Cour. Loc. Gleanings.

Ogden also adds that the following petition was made by Vicar Hindley:—

To ye Right Honourable the . . . ye honourable Court of High  
 . . . . . Petition of Christopher Hindle . . . . . your Petitioner hath  
 just . . . . . whose names are here under . . . . . Then by  
 sinister means wrong . . . . . Petitioner divers years now last past  
 although they have been by gentle entreaty often required to right your  
 Petitioner according to Equity, yet they utterly refuse to doe the same and  
 y<sup>t</sup> in regard they know your Petitioner is not able to endure suite to right  
 himself in the premises he having a great charge of Wife and Children.  
 Therefore ye humble desire of your Petitioner for god's glory is y<sup>t</sup> your  
 Honour will be pleased to suffer your Petitioner to sue before you in *forma*  
*Pauperis*, etc.

By virtue of a reference of Judge Thorpe dated ye 28th August, 1650, we  
 called Mr. Christopher Hindley, Minister of Ribchester and John Haworth  
 one of ye late Agents for ye Sequestrators before us, to account for arrears  
 of stipend at 20 marks per annum.

Sevill Ratcliffe.

John Starkie.

Padiam, November ye 25th, 1650.

This is a true copy out of Mr. Hindles own Manuscripts all which his  
 Relations will not part with for a hundred pounds. As Mr. Price the Vicar  
 and Tho. Waterhouse Clark of Blackburn told me Geor. Ogder, Vicar of  
 Ribchester, this day, Nov. 7th, 1705.

In reviewing the history of Mr. Hindley's sufferings, it is only  
 right to bear in mind that Mr. Ogden was himself a staunch  
 Royalist, and also that his information was obviously derived  
 from the Vicar's sympathisers. But Mr. Hindley's devotion  
 and zeal, as well as his courage, are, we think, amply proved.

Mr. Hindley died at Cowell in August, 1657. "His family  
 had," says Mr. W. A. Abram, "in 1703 this certificate of his  
 burial:—'August ye 29th, 1657. Then was Christopher Hindle,  
 Vicar of Ribchester, buried at Church-Kirk, near Blackburn.  
 John Hargreaves, chapell clerk there.'" The entry in the  
 Church-Kirk register is, "Christopher Hindle, minister of God's  
 word, of Cowell."

WILLIAM INGHAM, 1647.

It is probable that the Rev. W. Ingham was one of the Inghams  
 of Fulfilledge. The early part of his career at Ribchester is closely  
 identified with his predecessor, Vicar Hindle. As we have said,  
 the story of his appointment to Ribchester must not be implicitly

believed. His successor (Mr. Ogden) terms him "an inferior, ignorant man, and a religious knave." This was the language of an opponent. Mr. Ingham was formally instituted to "Stydd Chapel" by the Bishop of Chester "26 Aug., 1661." Probably this was in confirmation of his previous appointment in 1647. He was married twice; his first wife's burial is thus recorded in the register: 1668, July 9, Bur. was Mary, ye wife of Willm. Ingham, vicar. In less than three months he was again married (22 Sep., 1668) to Grace Hesmondhalgh, the entry in the register being: *Nupt. fuerunt Will'mus Ingham, Vicar et Gracea Hesminough.* He had several children by his first wife, but no entries of the baptism of his children occur in the register. He was buried in Ribchester Church, Oct. 25, 1681; the entry in the register being: Buryed was William Ingham, Vicar of Ribchester, i'th' chawcell—in Mr. Ogden's writing: Minister about 20 [sic] years.

From Mr. Ingham's will, dated 14 Oct., 1681, we gather that he lived in a house leased from Mr. Thomas Hothersall, of Hothersall. He left to the children of his daughter Anne Boyes, ten pounds. To the children of his son William Ingham, "that thirtie pounds that he oweth me." To the said William Ingham's son "all my lyberarie, transcripts, and noats, except my Bible," on condition of his paying £5 within twelve months to Mr. Ingham's widow. Other legacies were £15 to his daughter Anne Boyes; 5s. to his son William; 5s. to his daughter Mary Calvert;<sup>1</sup> 5s. to Elizabeth Hesminhalgh; to each of his grandchildren, one shilling. He also bequeathed "to the poorest of the poor of Ribchester in lieu of my doule," £1 3s. 4d. The residue of his goods (valued at £87 12s. 6d.) was left to his wife Grace, who was appointed executrix.

In Heywood's *Diaries*, under date 1675, is the following: "John [son of Richard Heywood, and elder brother of the Diarist], married Mary Ramsbottom, daughter-in-law to Mr. Ingham, now minister of Ribchester, by whom he had five children. John dyed beyond the seas, in Barbadoes, in the year 1662, or 1663; Mary, his wife, dyed a widow, anno 1672."<sup>2</sup> Mr. Ingham's son, William, seems to have been a clergyman, as he is mentioned as preaching at Ribchester in 1670 (see p. 108.)

<sup>1</sup> See chap. viii.

<sup>2</sup> Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, i., 106.

## GEORGE OGDEN, 1681.

It is not a little remarkable that the most distinguished Vicar of Ribchester, the Rev. George Ogden, B.D., should have been treated with such scant courtesy by Whitaker and Baines. Both give the date of his induction as 1699, whereas he was presented 18 years previous to that date. There seems to be but one excuse for their errors: Mr. Ogden's name does not occur in the registry books at Chester. No name occurring between those of Vicars Hindley and Heber. But had Dr. Whitaker, and Baines' informant examined the Ribchester Church books at all closely they could not have failed to note vicar Ogden. Canon Raines states that Mr. Ogden was born at "Kirk-Sandal, near Wakefield," but Mr. J. M. Ogden conjectures that Kirk-Sandal or Kirk-Burton, near Doncaster, was his birth-place. And if the inscription on Mr. Ogden's monument is to be trusted, he was born in 1636, which is somewhat doubtful. On Nov. 10, 1662, he was admitted to Jesus College, Cambridge: The abstract from the College books being "*Georgius Ogden, Eboracensis, examinatus et approbatus admissus est in ordinem Sizarorum sub Tutore suo Mro. Gulielmo Cooke, ad titulum ejusdem.*" In 1666, he took his B.A. degree; and in 1668, his M.A. degree, "per *Lit. Reg.* obtained for him" (says Canon Raines) "by the Duke of Manchester—why is not stated."<sup>1</sup> On his monument it will be noticed he is described as B.D., and as Fellow of his College, yet he is not registered as either in the College books. Canon Raines states that "in a letter from Sir Henry Cooke, of Wheatlet, Bart., dated Aug. 18, 1663, and addressed to Mr. Ogden, at that time an Undergraduate at Cambridge, he (Sir Henry) mentions having received from him 'two Latin letters,' and of his having 'now grown to years of discretion,' and promising him his patronage. It is clearly the letter of a warm friend, if not relation." His old College tutor, Dr. William Cooke, President of Jesus College, is also described by Canon Raines as "Ogden's friend and correspondent." In June, 1674, Dr. Cooke certified along with others "that he, the said Dr. Cooke, and no other," was the College Tutor of Mr. George Ogden, at that time Minister of Harewood, Yorkshire.

<sup>1</sup> Raines M.SS.

Mr. Ogden was appointed Vicar of Harewood in 1673. While there he made several interesting notes in the registers which are given in the *History of Harewood*. From them we gather that "George Ogden, Minister of Harewood, came hither to dwell, on July 16th, 1673. . . . Samuel Ogden, brother to the said George Ogden, cloth-maker, became parish clerk of Harewood, February 25th, 1676."<sup>1</sup> He repaired the "Vicarage House," according to a memorandum in the registers. In the list of Vicars, he is erroneously stated to have been Vicar of Harewood, 1673-1701.<sup>2</sup>

In 1680, Mr. Ogden was elected a Fellow of the Collegiate Church of Manchester. He had previously obtained "letters of pre-election" from the King, which however were superseded by a royal appointment in favour of Dr. Wroe. Canon Raines adds, "Great was Mr. Ogden's indignation, but the Chapter sympathised with him, and on the 30 May, 1675, it was ordered in the Chapter House, that Mr. Ogden's turn should be the next, and a minute to that effect was recorded." In the same year (1681) he was collated to the Vicarage of Ribchester, and seems to have been assiduous in his duties, not only as Vicar, but as the natural leader of the parish affairs. But being a man of learning and taste, and fond of society, we cannot wonder that he preferred to pass a good deal of his time in Manchester. He was taken to task by the Bishop of Chester (Dr. Stratford) in the subjoined letters<sup>3</sup> :—

To Mr. Ogden,—Sir, I doubt not but you will remember that you promised the last year, that at May next, you would betake yourself to your Vicarage, and for ye future you would personally reside upon it. Tho' the time then prefix'd by you be now past, yet (as I am informed) you have not performed your promise. I therefore beseech you once more to consider the obligation you are under to residence, not only from ye promise you made to me, but from ye laws of our Church, and from ye oath ye tooke at your institution into your Vicarage, and from many other sacred ties which I now forbear to mention. If you shall say that you are not by youre oath oblig'd to reside because B<sup>p</sup> Pearson dispensed with your absence, I question not but your own conscience will say ye contrary, because you cannot but know that your Dispensation expir'd many years since. For I find in ye register that you was dispensed with no longer than you could with convenience finish the repairs of your Vicar-house, and yet your Dispensation bears date Aug. 31, 1682, that is almost 10 years ago.

<sup>1</sup> Jones's, *Harewood*, 88.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 90.

<sup>3</sup> *Manch. Cour. Loc. Gleanings*.



Now I appeal to yourself whether you could not have conveniently finished ye repairs of your house in fewer years than ten? Yea, whether you could not have conveniently finished them in one year? I pray let me know speedily whether you intend forthwith to reside or to resigne. I present my servise to your Lady.—I am, Sir, your affectionate brother,

N. CESTRIENS.

Chester, June 2, '92.

To Mr. Ogden,—Sir,—I hope you are by this time come to a resolution about Ribchester, whether to reside or to resign. You own yourself to be under ye obligacons, not only of former promises but of other sacred and solemn ties to reside; and the more your obligations are the stronger is the bond induced by them.

But you add, yt your residence is equally required in both places, and you presume you are as much in point of conscience to ye one place as ye other. I suppose you was not of this opinion ye last year, when you promised (without reserve) to go the next May to Ribchester, and to make your next residence there. And tho' I will not deny your obligation to reside at Manchester, yet your obligation to Ribchester is the stronger will be manifest (to omitt others) by these 2 consideracons.

First yt the oath of perpetual residence at Manchester is disjunctive, viz., either petually to reside or freely to submitt to ye penalty; so yt iff you voluntarily pay the mulct imposed in case of non-residence you do not violate your oath, tho' you do not personally reside.

2ly That you had Institution to Ribchester, and the care and charge of all ye Souls in ye parish committed to your trust, which you had not at your Admission at your fellowship of Manchester.

I have much more to say upon this subject, but shall reserve it to a more free discourse by word of mouth. I desire you therefore to come to me with all ye speed you conveniently can; it will cost you but one day's time. I shall treat you not only as a Clergyman (as you desire) but as my Brother. I shall desire nothing of you, but what I shall give you such reasons for, as (I am confident) your own conscience will approve of. I pray present my respects to your Lady. I am, Sr, your affectionate Brother,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 8, '92.

These admirable letters had their effect upon the Vicar.

Mr. Ogden was an antiquary. Dr. Stukeley mentions him as having left a large collection of "Coins, intaglios, and antiquities," and adds "many urns have been found thereabouts (Ribchester) but all lost and disregarded since Mr. Ogden's death." Canon Raines describes him as "the personal friend" of Leigh, the Antiquary, "whose vanity, pretence and ignorance, are severely tasked by Dr. Whitaker." Ogden's interest in his parish was keen and intelligent, as his correspondence with the Rev. John Walker, and the numerous entries in the church books testify.

Mr. Ogden was married three times, according to Canon Raines, (1st) Deborah, widow of Mr. Lowe, of Manchester, May 5th,

1670; (2nd) Frances . . . who was buried in the Collegiate Church, Manchester, July 7, 1703; (3rd) Alice, daughter of Mr. [?] Thomas Haworth, of Manchester, Nov. 7, 1703. He had three sons, (1) John, buried at Ribchester, Sep. 11th, 1682; (2) Thomas, died March 13th, 1718; and (3) George, about whose identity there is considerable doubt. Canon Raines appears to think the son was married in 1696, but also suggests he may be the "Dr. Ogden in Chester," whom the parish clerk of Ribchester distinctly calls Vicar Ogden's son. If such be a fact, Dr. George Ogden was born in 1702. In Chester Cathedral is a monument to him and his wife. The Rev. George Ogden died July, 1706, and was buried in the vaults of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, July 27th. Fixed to a pillar in the chancel, near to St. Mary's Chapel, in the Cathedral, is an oval marble tablet to his memory. (See engraving.)

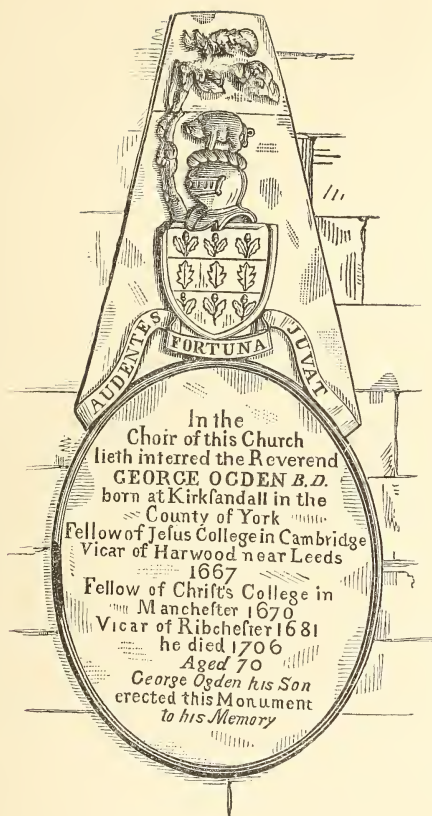
In his will, dated 23rd July, 1706, "he refers" (says Canon Raines) "to a deed dated 30th Jan., 1704, whereby he conveyed to Thomas Haworth, of Salford, gent., and Robert Asheton, of the same, clerk, Fellows of Christ's Coll. in Manchester, and George Corbishley, of Manchester, gent." a farm in Rothwell, co. York, in trust for Alice his wife during her life, and then to his sons. This he confirmed. To his brother Samuel Ogden, he left 20/-, having "already placed his said brother in a good condition."<sup>1</sup> His arms are: Sable on a fesse, between six acorns slipped, or, three oak leaves vert. Crest: A Boar passant sable, under an oak tree ppr. Motto: *Audentes Fortuna Juvat.*

#### THOMAS JOHNSON, 1706.

The Rev. Thomas Johnson, B.A., succeeded Mr. Ogden as Vicar of Ribchester. I have been unable to trace his career prior to his appointment to Ribchester, Aug. 3, 1706. His children (who died young) by his wife, Elizabeth, who was buried at Ribchester in 1761, were John, Thomas, and Hannah.

In the *Stonyhurst MSS.*, "Mr. Thomas Johnson, Vicar of Ribchester," is returned as having leased from Sir Nicholas Shireburne, of Stonyhurst, "a tenement or farm" for 21 years at a rack-rent of £4 5s. Mr. Johnson was buried at Ribchester in 1738.

<sup>1</sup> *Raines MSS.*



TABLET OF THE REV. GEORGE OGDEN, B.D.



## JOHN HEBER, 1738.

The Rev. John Heber (born Nov. 22, 1703) was the son of Reginald Heber, of Marton, co. York, Esq. He matriculated at Oxford, from University College, 30 May, 1723, but does not appear to have taken his B.A. or M.A. degrees (although described as "A.M." in Whitaker's *Whalley*). In 1728, he was appointed Rector of the family living (Marton) which he held along with with the rectory of Ribchester (to which he was instituted Feb. 26, 1738) until his death. He married at Whalley, May 14, 1745, Dorothy, daughter of Roger Nowell, of Read. He had two sons—Reginald (see a short notice of him in the list of Curates of Ribchester), and John (died young). Mr. Heber was uncle of another Reginald Heber, the celebrated Bishop of Calcutta. He seems to have been regularly at Ribchester, as his signature is appended to most of the resolutions passed during his tenure of the living. He died, aged 72, at Marton, June 27th, 1775, and was buried there.

## JOHN GRIFFITH, 1775.

The Rev. John Griffith, B.A., was instituted to Ribchester, Aug. 29, 1775. According to Whitaker, he died in the following year. I have been unable to find any particulars about him.

## JOHN ATKINSON, 1776.

The Rev. John Atkinson was appointed Vicar of Ribchester, July 27, 1776. He was appointed one of the King's preachers for the County of Lancaster, 25th Nov., 1786. He was also Curate of Walton-le-Dale, where he appears to have spent most of his time. From the *Blackburn Mail*, Dec. 20, 1797, I extract the following:—"1797, Dec. [15], Died, at Hilton Four Lane Ends, near Bolton, in the 54th year [?] year of his age, the Rev. Mr. Atkinson, Vicar of Ribchester, Sub-Curate of Walton-le-Dale, Chaplain to one of Her Majesty's Regiments, a King's Preacher, and a most piously benevolent man. Mr. Atkinson was on his return home from Manchester, where he had been for the advice of a physician, having lingered under a bad state of health for some time." In the church at Walton-le-Dale, there is a tablet with the following inscription:—"To the memory of the Reverend John Atkinson, Vicar of Ribchester and Curate of this Chapel, who died Dec. 15, 1797, aged 51." It will be



noticed that there is a discrepancy between the newspaper record of Mr. Atkinson's age and that cut on the tablet.

ISAAC RELPH, 1798.

The Rev. I. Relph was Curate of Ribchester for 22 years prior to his appointment as Vicar, July 11, 1798. He seems to have been most attentive to his duties as Vicar, and acted as Registrar of the parish. It is said that he was drowned in the river Ribble in 1800 or 1801, but I am unable to verify the assertion; and no entry of his burial appears in the registers. From the churchwardens' account book we learn that "Mrs. Relph" (wife or mother of the Vicar) was living at Ribchester in 1803 (see p. 99).

JAMES QUARTLEY, M.A., 1801.

The Rev. J. Quartley succeeded Mr. Relph as Vicar of Ribchester. He was married, and had one daughter who survived him, Henriette Jane, who left a small charity to the poor of Ribchester (see chap. x). Mr. Quartley had a good deal of bad health, and went to live at Lytham, where he died Feb. 12, 1829.

BOULBY THOMAS HASLEWOOD, 1829.

The Rev. B. T. Haslewood, B.A., son of Canon Dickens Haslewood, of Durham, was born Jan. 30, 1796. He graduated at St. Peter's College, Cambridge, (Sen. Opt.) 1818, having been previously educated at Durham Grammar School, and was contemporary with Dean, and Admiral, Ramsay. Before his appointment to Ribchester, he was Curate of Bishopwearmouth, under Dr. Gray, afterwards Bishop of Bristol. It is said on good authority that the Bishop of Chester offered the living of Ribchester, in 1829, to the Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, afterwards Bishop of Oxford and Winchester, because, "being so near Stonyhurst he wanted a good man." However, Mr. Haslewood received the appointment, and was instituted April 16, 1829. He was the select preacher at the Bishop's visitation at Preston, July 5, 1832. The sermon, afterwards published in pamphlet form "by desire," is soundly Evangelical, and appears to be an admirable example of Mr. Haslewood's style. The subject was "the doctrine" and work of "the Apostles."

Mr. Haslewood married Margaret Ogden, of Millfield, near Sunderland, (Mrs. Haslewood died Feb. 21, 1854). He had six sons (three of whom died young) and two daughters. The sons

became clergymen. viz. :—Rev. Dickens Haslewood, M.A., Vicar of Kettlewell, near Skipton; Rev. Wm. Maude Haslewood, M.A., (recently deceased) was Vicar of Great Harwood; and Rev. Boulby Haslewood, B.A., Vicar of Oswaldtwistle. For the long period of 47 years Mr. Haslewood remained Rector of Ribchester, and was in many respects a model parson, and was highly esteemed by his parishioners, although it is to be regretted that the old Parish Library was allowed to become gradually dispersed, and the numerous Roman antiquities discovered during his incumbency to be irrecoverably scattered. He died May 28, 1876, aged 81, and was buried at Ribchester. A marble tablet was erected in the church to his memory (see chap. viii.).

FREDERICK EUGENE PERRIN, 1876.

The Rev. F. E. Perrin, M.A., succeeded Mr. Haslewood, and was instituted to the Vicarage in 1876.

Mr. Perrin was formerly Curate of Whitewell, and Chaplain of Waddington Hospital, near Clitheroe. He succeeded in accomplishing many urgently needed reforms in the parish; was largely instrumental in getting the living doubled in value, and also in the restoration of the church, besides obtaining a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners towards the building of a new rectory. He was proud of the historical associations of his parish, and had formed a large collection of antiquarian curiosities. He died rather suddenly, May 10, 1885, aged 63, and was buried in Ribchester parish churchyard. A Brass was placed in the chancel to his memory (see chap. viii.). Mrs. Perrin survived her husband. Two of his sons are clergymen—Rev. F. E. Perrin, M.A., Curate of St. Paul's, Preston; and Rev. W. E. Perrin, Curate of St. Paul's, Wednesbury.

FRANCIS JOHN DICKSON, 1885.

The present Rector of Ribchester, the Rev. F. J. Dickson, M.A., is a son of the late Joseph Dickson, Esq., a member of a well known firm of solicitors at Preston. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A., 1870, and M.A., 1873. He was Tutor at St. Columba College, Dublin, 1871-2; Curate of Christ Church, Preston, 1872-76; and Rector of Bispham, 1876-85. He holds the office of Secretary to the Clerical Association of the Fylde.

Mr. Dickson is married, and has several children. Besides holding service in Stydd church every Sunday during the summer months, Mr. Dickson has established a *Parish Magazine*.

#### CURATES OF RIBCHESTER.

I have thought it desirable to give a list of as many Curates of Ribchester as can be traced, with (in some cases) brief biographies.

RICHARD KIPPAX, 1683-6.

The Rev. Richard Kippax, B.A., whose signature appears on the *facsimile* plate (p. 91), was appointed to Burnley, 1687-8, where he died in 1723. In the register is the following baptismal entry:--1683-4, feeb. 12, William y<sup>e</sup> son of Mr. Richard Kippax, Curatt de Ribchester.

WILLIAM FELLGATE, 1686-90.

The Rev. W. Fellgate was probably a son of the Rev. Samuel Fellgate, Vicar of Mytton, and brother of Rev. T. Fellgate, Curate of Longridge. He is described as being elected by "the xxiv gentlemen" of Ribchester (page 109). He had one daughter, baptized, "1690, July 2, Margaret, the daughter of Mr. William ffellgate, Curat." He was buried at Ribchester (as recorded in the register), Dec. 1st, 1690.

MR. BUTTERWORTH, 1690-1.

This Curate's name occurs only in the churchwardens' account book (page 109).

WILLIAM GREGSON, 1692-4.

The Rev. W. Gregson was elected Curate by "the xxiv" (page 109). In the register is the baptismal entry, "1691-2, feeb. y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>, Anne the daughter of Mr. William Gregson, Curt."

THOMAS NADEN, 1694-1706.

The Rev. T. Naden, M.A. (or Nayden), was born at Hothersall. His name frequently occurs in the account books. He died in 1715, and was buried in Ribchester Church. For further particulars see chap. xi.

MR. MORTON, 1706.

I have been unable to identify this Curate. He appears (see p. 109) to have received "notice to remove" on the appointment of Vicar Johnson. No Curate followed until 1747.

WILLIAM AYRTON, 1747.

JAMES FISHER, 1754<sup>1</sup>

PAGE GODFREY, 1761.

MARK BURN, 1764.

MYLES ATKINSON, 1765.

EDMUND ARMISTEAD, 1766.<sup>2</sup>

REGINALD HEBER, LL.B., 1768.

The Rev. R. Heber, cousin of his namesake of Calcutta, was the son of the Rev. J. Heber, Rector of Ribchester. Born at Marton, co. York, he graduated LL.B. at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He married in 1771 the daughter of Rev. Thos. Moreton, D.D., Bassingham, who owned some property in Blackburn. He succeeded his father as Rector of Marton in 1775, where he died in 1799 without issue.

WILLIAM HODGSON, 1769.

WILLIAM BARTON, 1770.<sup>3</sup>

ISAAC RELPH, 1776.<sup>4</sup>

From 1796 to 1814 there was no Curate of Ribchester.

JOHN CAMPBELL, B.A., 1815-17.

JAMES COTTINGHAM, B.A., 1827-29.

WILLIAM MAUDE HASLEWOOD, M.A., 1851-2.<sup>5</sup>

R. H. TOWNLEY, 1872-76.

<sup>1</sup>Vicar of Garstang. *Chet. Soc.*, vol. cv., 198.

<sup>2</sup>See page 110.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Vicar of Langho, 1795-

1802.

<sup>4</sup>Afterwards Rector of Ribchester, see p. 156.

<sup>5</sup>Son of the Rector of Ribchester.

## CHAPTER V.

The Records of "The Gentlemen and  
Four-and-Twenty" of the Parish.

FROM the "olde usages of the city of Winchester" of the fourteenth century, it appears that the chosen of the inhabitants were called "sworn men," as we are told that "off y<sup>e</sup> heades of the cite sholde be foure-and-twenty y-sworne in stede of<sup>1</sup> the most gode men and of the wyseste of the town for to treuleche helpe, and counsyle the meyr for to save and susteyne the fraunchyse."<sup>2</sup> It seems probable then, that we have here the origin of the ancient institution of "sworn men," which was formerly common in Lancashire. Preston, Garstang, Lancaster, and Goosnargh, as well as Ribchester, had their "four-and-twenty sworn men"; but it is worthy of note that in Preston and Ribchester, the "sworn men" are almost invariably called "the four-and-twenty *gentlemen*." So far as we have been able to ascertain, Goosnargh and Ribchester are the only parishes which still keep up this ancient custom. The records of "the gentlemen and four-and-twenty" of Ribchester are preserved for an unusually long period. From 1650 down to the present day, with but few intermissions, the churchwardens' accounts and the minutes of "the gentlemen" are contained with much fulness; and are also in an excellent state of preservation.

From these books we obtain an insight into the inner public life of our ancestors, which for quaint simplicity is most amusing and interesting. We see them at their festivities, *e.g.*, the dinner on Communion days, and their "rearing" celebrations at the old "Blue Bell." We see too how they ruled, not only the Clerk and Sexton, the Ringers and Choristers, but even went so far as to elect the Curates, regulating their (the Curates') allowance according to their conduct. Upon foxes and "noapes"

<sup>1</sup> In non-privative sense, that is to say, as, in place of.

<sup>2</sup> *English Gilds*, 349, Early Eng. Text Soc.



they paid head-money; "frequent gamsters" they arrested; non-attendants at parish meetings were fined; Easter dues, tithes, and burial fees, were imposed; and with a candour honourable, though often laughable, they accounted for every penny piece of the parish money. But even more interesting perhaps than this candid revelation of old village life, is the reflex we obtain of the national feeling of two hundred years ago. The safety of the King or Queen was of great concern; political and religious struggles in the metropolis were closely followed; national victories were celebrated by ringing the church bells, and by much consumption of ale; coal and gunpowder were largely burnt on Guy Fawkes's day; and the love felt to this day for the House of Stanley was shared by our ancestors. "The history of even a remote village," truly says Dr. Cox, "is but the history of the nation in little."<sup>1</sup>

The first mention of the "twenty-four" of Ribchester we have met with, is on 26th April, 1638, when John Warde was chosen without his consent by the xxiv of Ribchester to be the churchwarden for Hothersall.<sup>2</sup> The list of the xxiv is given, but we find twenty-seven names, so there is some mistake. We give the list as printed from the MS. of Mr. C. T. Tallent Bateman, in the *Palatine Note Book*.

*Vicessimo Sexto die Aprilis, Ann. Dom., 1638.*

The names of the xxiii<sup>j</sup> of the p'sh of Ribchest'r.

IN RIBCHESTER.

John Warde  
John Cottam  
Thomas Seede de Chesbanke  
John Hayhurst  
Edmund Watson  
Thomas Seede de Seedgreen  
Richard Hayhurst

IN DILWORTH.

Lawrence Cottam  
James Norcrosse  
Richard Cottam, senior  
Ralphe Radcliffe  
Richard Cottam, junior  
Robt. Hill

IN ALSTON.

Roger Seedul  
Richard Bilsborow  
John Willisie  
Robert Alston  
Thomas Daniell

IN HUTHERSALL.

John Dewhurst  
John Seede  
Richard Huthersall  
Thomas Boulton

IN DUTTON.

John Hayhurst, junior  
John Barlow  
John Hayhurst, senior  
Robt. Sowerbutts  
Thomas Baly

<sup>1</sup>*Churches of Derbyshire*, ii., 333.

<sup>2</sup>*Palat. Note Book*, iii., 45.

*Vera copia concordat cū' Orriginall.*

If the preceding is a "true copy" of the original (and not being able to see Mr. Bateman's MS., we can only conjecture), the words "to serve for" have perhaps been left out of the original MS. in three instances. The "gentlemen and four-and-twenty" were at this time engaged in a dispute with Dr. Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester, about the appointment of an old man named John Warde as churchwarden for the township of Hothersall. In the *History of Longridge* (pp. 175-7) the petition of John Warde against his appointment as churchwarden, without his consent, is printed in full. After reciting his long connection with the district, and testifying that he had done "continewall suite and service" to "the church and the King's M'tie (still for Ribchester)," the aggrieved petitioner went on to say that contrary to "all custom" some of the "xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of other townships of y<sup>e</sup> said p'ish have made choice of y<sup>or</sup> petit'r to serve as church warden" for "a howse and little p'cell of land" in Hothersall, no "servic' having been donn for the said little p'cell of land these forty years and above as y<sup>or</sup> petit'r ys very well able to prove." To this petition the following replies were sent:—

"Chester Palace, *Ulto* Apr. 1639.—I wish the p'ishon's would no'i'ate [nominate] some other man: the rather because I am informed the Petic'oner is a verie aged and infirme man. And if they breake theire own custome, their Companie also ot 24 will soon be dissolved. Jo. CESTRIEN."

"Garstange, this 3d of May, 1639.

I wish the inhabitance of Hothersall to elect a Churchwarden According to my Lord B'pps refferanc'. WM. ARMITSTEAD."<sup>1</sup>

Apparently the "gentlemen" proved stubborn, as on the 4th June, 1639, a second petition subscribed by eighteen parishioners and "gentlemen" of Ribchester was forwarded to the Bishop.

"To the right reu'end father in god.: John by the devine p'vidence: nowe Lord Bushopp of Chester.

Humbly certifieth your good Lordship: that: conserninge makinge choise of y<sup>e</sup> church wardens of our p'ishe of Ribchester

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. W. Armitstead, curate of Kirkham and Master of the Kirkham Grammar School, was acting here

as Deputy to the Commissary of Richmond. He was Vicar of Lytham in 1646, and died Oct. 1658.

y<sup>t</sup> hath been or ancient custom : not to make choyse of any man to serve as church warden but onely for the towne he Dwelleth In, except any man of his own accord be willing soe to doe : and therefore wee whose names are hearto subscriybed being p'ishoners and of the xxiiij<sup>th</sup>: Doe hereby desyre yo<sup>r</sup> Lo<sup>pps</sup> favor for our neighbor John Warde whome is wronged in this choise : being a very honest man : and very servicable and dutifull in all respects and as duty byndethe wee shall duly pray to god for yo<sup>r</sup> Lo<sup>pps</sup> great p'perity.

And soe we humbly take our leaves, this 4th of June An'o 1639.

Henrie Townley  
Robt. [I.] Alston  
Thomas [T.B.] Baley  
John Hayhurst de Ribchestr  
John Hayhurst de Hugh  
Edward Ashe  
John Barlowe  
John Carter  
Robert Sowerbutt

Thomas Seede  
John Cottame  
Edmond Watstone  
Thomas Seed  
John Hayhurst  
James Norcrosse  
Roger Sudell  
John Willasey  
John Ward "

The day following (5th June) the Bishop wrote a strong reply, in which he admonished the "gentlemen" for putting "this office at this troublesome tyme upon an old impotent man unable to serve;" and "because," he concluded, "those 3 of that town w<sup>ch</sup> have nominated him are refractory, and refuse to choose another, I again admonish them to do it or to shew cause of their refusall in the consistory, on fryday come fortnight [21st June], by 10 a clock before noon."

The upshot of the whole matter was a compromise. Robt. Cherimon was chosen to serve as Churchwarden by the 24 of the parish, at a meeting held in the church, as John Warde's deputy.

That the power of the "sworn men" was indisputably great we cannot doubt from what took place at Kirkham just at the very time of the Ribchester dispute. The vicar of Kirkham having defied "the thirty men" of that parish, the matter was referred to the Bishop, who decided that if the thirty men had their power delegated to them by the parish "then their acts relating thereunto were as effectual and binding as if they had the King's Sanction." And finally, "the thirty men" proved "their custom good" in the consistory court, and obtained sentence, with costs, against the vicar.

There do not seem to be any rules extant appertaining to the social position, or the mode of appointment of "the gentlemen" of Ribchester. We should suppose somewhat similar rules to those in neighbouring parishes would be in vogue. We give the following extracts, word for word, from the first folio volume of Churchwardens' Accounts and Minute Book which has been preserved.

ORDERS MADE BY YE xxiiij OF YE PARISH.

Apr. 16th, 1650.

1. Md. It is agreed by the xxiiij of the parish that they shall meet together on every Tuesday in Easter weeke, for the electing of churchwardens In every Townshipp for the yeare past. As also for to consult of the bussyness of the parish.
2. Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is agreed by the xxiiij of this parish y<sup>t</sup> the expenses of the parish church shall be gathered within every towne, one who'e Gaulde<sup>1</sup> Towne after another, as followeth. The first Towne is Dilworth, the second is Ribchester, the third is [Ho]chersall, the fourth is Dutton, the fifth is Alston, and when they [have] so gathered the same then every towne to begin againe wi[th the] same course and order.

3. Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered by the xxiiij of this parish, y<sup>t</sup> every one of the xxiiij [who] doth not make their appearance after warning given given both . . . . and shall forfeite to the use of church for such . . . . viii [d]

4. Apr. 16th, 1650.

It is ordered by the xxiiij of the parish y<sup>t</sup> . . . . noe earth shall [be] opened in the church . . . shall pay for the same before the ea[rth] be broken.<sup>2</sup>

Apr. 12th, 1664.

Wee the gentlemen, and xxiiij of this parish, having p<sup>r</sup>sed (perused) the Accompts of the Churchwardens of the parish, and finding their accompts very imperfect, In regard y<sup>t</sup> they are brought in unto unto us in generall, and not p<sup>t</sup>iculars. Now do this day order y<sup>t</sup> from henceforth the Churchwardens shall bring

<sup>1</sup>Gaulds, or lays, were the old terms for modern rates.

<sup>2</sup>(Crossed out apparently some years after the original was written.

in their accompts ffaire written in particulars, and not in generall, otherwise their accompts will be denyed and refused.

Aprill 25th, 1669.

An order resûlded on, and made by the xxiiij of this parish, that whereas the Townshipp of Alston hath usually payd att one church lay xix<sup>s</sup> and viij<sup>d</sup>. It shall be henceforth have Tenne-pence abated on every church lay, y<sup>t</sup> theire church lay shall bee xviiij and Tenne-pence, and so continue p'petually.

Merad. It is orderd this 5th day of Aprill, 1670 by y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen and fowere and twentye of y<sup>e</sup> pish of Ribchester y<sup>at</sup> whereas Mr: Will: Ingham, minister of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> p'ish . . . severall times take . . . in Regestringe y<sup>e</sup> Accompts of y<sup>e</sup> churchwardens of y<sup>e</sup> afore<sup>d</sup> p'ish and . . . y<sup>at</sup> he shall receive . . . y<sup>e</sup> churchwardens, being six shillings eight-pence, to comênce mediately fro this day.

Witness or<sup>r</sup> hands

Will. Dewhurst  
Ric. Townley  
Ric. Warde  
Henry Sudall  
Edm. Naden  
George Harrison  
John Hayhurst

Henry Hayhurst  
John Warde  
John Barlowe  
Richard Watsonn  
Seth Hadocke  
Jno. Cotton

2<sup>d</sup> Aprilis, Anno. xxx<sup>mo</sup> Caroli. Sed<sup>i</sup> Regis [1677].

It agreed and ordered by y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen and fower and twenty of this parrish y<sup>t</sup> Roger Dewhurst now Clarke shall keep y<sup>e</sup> Regist<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> parrish and this same booke and is to receive for his care and paines therein six shillings eight pence as witnesseth our hands y<sup>e</sup> day and yeare first above written.

Tho. Hothersall  
Abrah. Towneley  
Jo. Ward  
O. Shawe  
Tho. Halsall  
Tho. Hill  
Thomas Hothersall  
Jo. Singleton

James Lund  
Richard Barlow  
Jams. Norcrosse  
Richard Wilkison  
George Harrison  
John Scarebeck  
John Ward  
Richard Blackburn

The date put at the head of this notice, "The thirtieth year of the reign of Charles II.," is quite absurd, as the merry monarch only ruled 25 years; apparently the loyal "gentlemen and xxiv." quietly ignored the seven years of Cromwell's protectorate, and



assumed that the reign of Charles II. commenced in 1647, the year of his father's execution.

This resolution of the xxiv. seems to have remained in force until 1702. We wish that all the entries were made in as clear and readable a way as Mr. Dewhurst's.

In the first register is the following list of names and amounts contributed. Nothing is said as to the purpose for which the money was used.

[1673]. *Dilworth*.—Richard Cottam, 4d.; John Eccles, 3d.; Marey Dewhurst, widow, 2d.; Richard Houthersall, 2d.; Thomas Cottam, 2d.; George Storzeker, 2d.; and Richard Leeming, Richard Duckworth, Thomas Seed, James Sharples, James Walmsley, John Cottam, George Eccles, Henery Kellet, Richard Couper, George Singleton, Edward Roades, each 1d.

*Alston*.—John Ceay, 9d.; Mr. Halsall, 6d.; Mr. Shay, 6d.; Thomas Bleasdel, 6d.; Thomas Rothall, 6d.; Mr. William Hothersall, 4d.; John Walmsley, 4d.; Richard Wilkinson, 4d.; Richard Shuttleworth, 4d.; Widdow Bilsborrow, 4d.; William Cutler, 3d.; Thomas Gregson, 3d.; George Harryson, 2d.; Willesey Turner, 2d.; James Bushell, 2d.; and John Parkinson, Robert Singleton, Henery Bushell, Henry Winckley, Robert Bleasdel, Anne Horneybee, Thomas Daynyall, 1d. each.

*Ribchester*.—William Ingham, 1s. 0d.; Mr. John Ward, 1s. 0d.; William Dewhurst, 6d.; Edward Seed, of Loftshe, 4d.; John Higison, 4d.; Widdow Cottam, 4d.; Ellise Cottam, 4d.; Anne Osbaldeston, 4d.; Mr. Seed, 4d.; Lawrence Cottom, 2d.; George Duckworth, 2d.; John Cottam, 2d.; Edward Pye, 2d.; Richard Pinder, 2d.; William Pinder, 2d.; John Ribchester, 2d.; Richard Pemberton, 2d.; John ffarelough, 2d.; Mr. Whicnedell (?), 2d.; Widdow Hayhurst, 2d.; James Sourbust, 2d.; Lawrence Cottam, 2d.; Seath Haydocke, 2d.; William Peell, 2d.; Hugh Seed, 2d.; and Henery Seed, Richard Carter, Thomas Barret, Thomas Walmsley, William Greenwood, Isabell Berrey, John Genkinson, Widdow Cottam, Richard Carter, Jonathan Seed, Mr. Halsall, each, 1d.<sup>1</sup>

*Hothersall*.—Mr. Blagdon, 6d.; Mr. Huthersall, 6d.; Richard Dobson (?), 2d.; Robert Danyell, 2d.; and James Haworth, Richard Ruker (?), John Dobson, and George Radclif, 1d. each.

<sup>1</sup> Four names are quite illegible.

*Dutton*.—Abraham Townley, 1s. 0d. ; Lawrence Hayhurst, 6d. ; Richard Barlow, 4d. ; John Goodshay, 4d. ; John Ducket, 2d. ; Henery Ducket, 2d. ; William Kenyon, 2d. ; and George Ducket, 1d.

To what ever purpose these “contributions” were devoted (and conjecture upon the point seems idle), at any rate the list is extremely interesting, as we have here a list of “the principal inhabitants” of Ribchester 200 years ago. Most of the names are familiar ones, but we have not identified Mr. “Whicnedell” and Mr. Blagdon. It will be noticed that many of the names also occur in the list of Recusants particularly the Hothersalls, Duckets, Goodshays, and Cottams. It should be added that no date is given, but I have ventured to ascribe 1678 as the approximate date from the internal evidence in the register.

Memorandum y<sup>t</sup> on April y<sup>e</sup> 6th 1697

That it was then agreed by y<sup>e</sup> Vicar, Gentlemen, y<sup>e</sup> twenty-four and other substantial persons of the Parish of Ribchester ; that William Carter, now Parish Clarke thereof shall have and receive from y<sup>e</sup> successive Churchwardens three Church lays through y<sup>e</sup> Parish yearly, for y<sup>e</sup> maintaining and upholding y<sup>e</sup> Church of Ribchester with all things necessary except principal Timbers, falling of walls and burning the Bells, beautifying y<sup>e</sup> Church, and surplice.

Witness our hands

George Ogden, Vicar  
Tho. Hothersall  
Abra Townley  
Jo. Ward  
Edmd Naden  
George Ratcliffe

Willi. Carter, Clerk  
Jo Westby  
Tho. Naden  
Jam Norcrosse  
Ellis Cottam  
Richard Hayhurst *et aliis*

December y<sup>e</sup> 1st 1703.

Memorandum this day Mr. Ogden Vicar of Ribchester gave y<sup>e</sup> Communion Table at Stid Church, and caused the long seat in the Chancel to be fixt under the South Window, and has likewise bestowed a diaper linnen Cloth almost a yard and a half in length, and about y<sup>e</sup> same breadth—lettered in the middle with these words This for the Holy Sacrament at Stid—to be lodged and decently kept in or at y<sup>e</sup> Clarke of Ribchester his house for ever. Witness our hands.

April y<sup>e</sup> 10, 1705.

It is ordered and agreed by and with y<sup>e</sup> consent of y<sup>e</sup> Gentlemen and 24 of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>rsh</sup>, y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Churchwarden of Rib. shall not contract or act anything pertaining to y<sup>e</sup> Church without y<sup>e</sup> free consent of y<sup>e</sup> rest of his felow Ch. wardens for y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>sh</sup> : if he doth he shall be liable to beare y<sup>e</sup> charge Him selfe.

Signed by us,

Tho. Hothersall.

Hen. Townley.

April y<sup>e</sup> 10, 1705.

It is ordered and agreed by and with y<sup>e</sup> gentelmen and 24 of Parish that y<sup>e</sup> Churchwardens shall pay to y<sup>e</sup> Clearke he behaving him self as becometh him to do in his place, and also to his Parishioners y<sup>e</sup> shall make y<sup>e</sup> 16s. 2d. which is now due to him from y<sup>e</sup> Parish for keeping y<sup>e</sup> Register and Cloke, et 2 <sup>1</sup> <sup>s.</sup> <sup>d.</sup> 10 0 yearly y<sup>e</sup> same. In regard y<sup>t</sup> he shall not go to gather meal Which he Jo. Peele doth most humbly beg y<sup>t</sup> you will be pleased to signe y<sup>e</sup> same and alow.

Signed by us.

The words above being a reall Request humbly beging all your approbation by me, Josiah Peele, Clearke de Rib.

March y<sup>e</sup> 26th, 1706.

It is ordered and agreed by and betwixt y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen and 24 of y<sup>e</sup> parish of Rib<sup>tr</sup> y<sup>t</sup> Tho. Cuttler, now present Sexton, shall have to him for y<sup>e</sup> Beare<sup>1</sup> and fetching either in y<sup>e</sup> Town or in y<sup>e</sup> parish he shall have y<sup>e</sup> sum of 6d. unless y<sup>e</sup> parties concerned make one them selves.

Tho. Hothersall.

Hen. Townley.

Clayton Dewhurst. *et aliis*

March the 26, 1706.

That it was [agreed by the] Vicar gentlemen Twenty ffour and other [substantial] persons of this parish of Ribchester that Josiah [Peele Parish] Clerk thereof shall hav eand Receive from . . . Churchwardens three Church lays through y<sup>e</sup> Parish [each] year for the maintaining of and upholding the Parish Church of Ribchester w<sup>th</sup> all things necessary except principall

<sup>1</sup> Beare, *i.e.*, bier.

timber, ffalling of walls, Bursting of Bells, Beautifying the Church, and Surplice.<sup>1</sup>

Witness our hands.

Josiah Peele, Parish Clearke.

Geo. Ogden, Vicar.

Tho. Hothersall.

Hen. Townley.

Tho. Naden.

April, 15, 1707.

It is then ordered and agreed by the gentlemen [and-four-and] twenty of the parish of Ribchester that they shall . . . . . yearly for the time to come on Easter Tuesday the Spiritual Court at every Visitation to require the old Churchwardens . . . . . the lands of the Churchwarden for the ensuing year . . . . . remain in their lands over and above their allowed and disbursed . . . . . charges when they are quitted of their office by the Spiritual Court.

Tho. Hothersall.

Hen. Townley.

Tho. Naden, etc.

April y<sup>e</sup> 6th 1708.

It is then ordered and agreed by the gentlemen and ffour and twenty of the parish of Ribchester that Whereas the Ch: Wardens of Dillworth Alston and Hothersall and Dutton have time out of mind Colected theire Respective proportions of Ch. Leys and paid them to the Ch. warden of Ribchester who has constantly with the advice of the Vicar and one or more of his Brethren the Ch. wardens for the time being disburss. the same in necessary Respecting the Ch: and for as much as the last.....day theire was an Invasion of this priviledge of the Ch Warden of Ribchester tending to confusion amongst us: We whose names are under written do agree, order and appoint that the Ch. Wardens of Dillworth, Alston, and Hothersall and Dutton shall constantly colect and pay theire respective Ch. Leys to the Ch. warden of Ribchester on East<sup>r</sup> Tuesday, Who with the advice of the Vicar and 2 or more of the other Ch. wardens shall disburse y<sup>e</sup> same, and it is furth<sup>r</sup> ordered y<sup>t</sup> in setting any work about the Church y<sup>e</sup> Churchwardens shall not be allowed any more than one shilling in y<sup>e</sup> pound for expences in treating with y<sup>e</sup> Workmen.

<sup>1</sup> This page is torn at one corner. one entered in 1697.  
The minute is almost identical with

Tho. Johnson, Vicar.  
 Thos. Naden.  
 Clayton Dewhurst.  
 Tho. Hothersall.  
 Hen. Townley.  
 George Ratcliffe.

April 11, 1710.

It is then ordered and agreed by the Vicar, Gentlemen and four and twenty of this parish that the Churchwardens shall not expend (upon themselves and the parishioners) to be placed to their accounts above fifteen shillings at their meeting on Easter tuesday to passe their accounts.

Tho. Johnson, Vicar.  
 Thos. Naden.  
 Hen. Townley, etc.

Ap<sup>rl</sup> ye 23rd 1728.

This day being Easter Tuesday it is ordered and agreed by ye gent & 24 That ye Churchwardens succeeding shall not exceed ye sum of 2s. 6d. at ye time of there presentment making and that they shall not have any monies allowed to be expend at such times as ye pretend to make private acct<sup>s</sup> for ye future.

Hen. Townley.  
 Edwd. Entwistle.  
 Robert Ratcliffe.

Ye day and yeare above named. We ye gent and 24 of ye psh do hereby amers all men of ye afors<sup>d</sup> 24 as neglect appearing on Easter Tuesday succeeding and particularly those persons which neglect and this day and whose names are under written in ye sum of 6<sup>d</sup> a peece.

Richd. Charnley	} Defaulters.
Seth Haydock	
Cuthbert Singleton	
Wm. Charnley	
Wm. Nocross	
Jon. Hide	

March ye 27th day 1733

Whereas it hath been usuall to pay one penny for every Noape head killed w<sup>in</sup> this Parish it is now ordered by us that hereafter there shall not be anything Due; as witness our hands.

Tho. Johnson, Vicar, etc.

Like similar resolutions, this one soon became inoperative.

April 8th 1740.

It is this day ordered and agreed by the gentlemen and Twenty-four of the Parish of Ribchester that from henceforth, June 15th



being the day in which his Majesty was proclaimed there shall be no public expence for the future by the Ch : wardens or ringers, likewise october 11th<sup>1</sup> and october 30th<sup>2</sup> we order that no expence be brought upon the Parish any of those days for the future. As witness our hands

Edward Entwistle  
John Singleton sen  
Henry Bourne  
(*et allis*)

Aprl ye 20th 1742.

Then it is agreed by ye gent. and 24 of the psh of Ribchester that from ye Date hereof there shall be allowed for the Expense and Charge of ye publick meeting on Easter Tuesday and shall be hereafter expended one pound, and no other to have ye benefit but ye gent and Twenty-four except such as shall be allowed by ye aforesaid.

Signed by us.

Richd. Charnley  
John Alston  
Thomas Eastham  
John Greenwood  
John Pye  
Richard Watson  
Jon. Singleton, senr.  
Cuthbert Singleton  
John Bourne  
Robert Wilowsey  
John Osbaldeston

John Bourne  
John Singleton, jun.  
Thos. Haighton  
Wm. Norcross  
Robert Ratcliffe  
John Fletcher  
Joseph Howard  
John Kay  
William Cowell

24th of April, 1754.

It is then agreed by the Vestry of this Parish that the sum of one p<sup>d</sup>. allowed usually to the Churchwardens on the Four Sacrament Days and the sum of One Pound to the Vestry on Easter Tuesday and the sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence on the 29th of May, and the sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence on the King's accession to the Throne shall not be allowed or paid by the Parish for the Future. Also it is agreed that there shall not be any ale, etc., shall be allowed concerning any work being done or otherway, Unless it be first agreed to by the vestry.

As witness our hands.

Richard Shereburne,  
Edward Entwistle,  
etc.

<sup>1</sup> October 11th (10th), Coronation-day, Geo. II.

<sup>2</sup> October 30th, Birthday, Geo. II.

July 18th, 1766.

£ s. d.

Mr. Thos. Parkinson, Yeoman, Debtor to the Parish  
for Roof Money ... .. 0 2 0

10ber 6th, 1766, Rec<sup>d</sup> the above in full,

M. Atkinson.

March 10th, 1767.

Item. Mr. Edward Dewhurst, Dr. to the Parish  
for roof, 2s. 0d.

Rec<sup>d</sup> the above, M. Atkinson.

29 March, 1785.

It is agreed that all graves in the church must pay four shillings  
Roof-money.

Isaac Relph, Curate.

Wm. ffox (*et aliis*).

April 10, 1792.

Agreed at Easter Tuesday that Henry Carter be Clark of  
Ribchester Church, upon request to receive Salary belonging to  
the Clark, Dues excepted, [of] which he is to receive one half  
during the life of John Singleton, the present Clark.

Agreed on at a Vestry Meeting that the Parish of Ribchester is  
to build a place of Confinement chllled a Black hole, the expense  
of erecting it to be paid by a fifteen, to be collected by the  
Churchwarden and Constable of each town, and to be completed  
immediately, by the 29th September next if possible.

I. Relph, Minister.

Edwd. Entwistle.

W. Pye, etc.

Whereas an old Bazoon mending and new one with two handles  
stand in this book charged to the Parish: The major part of the  
Vestry assembled at this Meeting on Easter Tuesday, 1794, do  
agree and bid that the old Bazoon shall belong to the Parish  
Church of Richester with one handle, and the new Bazoon and  
Hautboy shall belong to the Chapel of Longridge as their  
respective rites [rights].

5 Nov., 1794.

Every Vestryman not attending on Easter Tuesday and fifth of  
November for the future to pay a fine of 1s. 6d. each, unless they  
can shew a lawful cause, to be spent when collected for the benefit  
of those present at the meeting.

16 April, 1805.

That no more liquor be given the workmen at the Church for allowances than one pint of ale each day for each workman.

20 April, 1813.

That the gentlemen constituting the Four and Twenty of the parish of Ribchester shall be allowed £5 towards their expenses every Easter Tuesday.

J. Quartley, Vicar.

David Nuttall.

Robt. Parkinson, Minr. of Longridge.

Richd. Greenall (*et aliis*).

In 1821 a resolution was passed that any gentleman absenting himself for three successive years should be disqualified.

In 1868 the names of "the gentlemen and xxiv." were :

RIBCHESTER.	ALSTON.	DILWORTH.
Reuben Alston.	John Walne.	Robert Smith.
Edward Alston.	John Parkinson.	Thurston Greenall.
William Dewhurst.	George Singleton.	William Marsden.
Joseph Whittaker.	John Briggs.	Robert Kay.
Robert Vernon Addison.	John Sanderson.	HOTHERSALL.
John Sharples.	DUTTON.	Thomas Fenton.
Charles Dewhurst.	Thomas Wallbank.	Thomas Sharples.
	Peter Walker.	Thomas Nuttall.
	Robert Greenall.	
	Richard Cuttler.	
	Edward Dewhurst.	

## CHAPTER VI.

## The Churchwardens and Parish Officers.



It is now rightly recognized that the names of the churchwardens of old parish churches should be printed, information of much value to genealogists being often thereby obtained. The list in the earlier years, it will be noticed, is very defective.

Very conflicting accounts have been given of the mode of electing the churchwardens at Ribchester. Bishop Gastrell states that in the parish there were "five Townships or Hamlets, viz. : Ribchester, Dilworth, Alston and Hothersall, Bayley, and Dutton ; for which there are five churchwardens, four of them chosen by the 24 men of their respective Quarters, and one by the Minister for Ribchester, out of three nominated to him."<sup>1</sup> And in a note Canon Raines states "Alston and Hothersall form a joint Township to the West of Ribchester."<sup>2</sup> Mr. J. E. Bailey followed Canon Raines in his article on "The aggrieved Parishioner of Ribchester."<sup>3</sup> How the accomplished and learned Canon Raines made the mistake of including the Township of Bayley in the Parish of Ribchester, I do not understand, as in *Lancashire Chanttries* he speaks of "Bayley in the Parish of Mitton."<sup>4</sup> The Township of Alston and Hothersall are separate and distinct, and not a joint Township as stated by Bishop Gastrell. Nor do we find any evidence to shew that the Minister of Ribchester ever did choose one of the churchwardens—all the five being elected by the "gentlemen and four-and-twenty."

1546 John Tomlynson, "Church reve of y<sup>e</sup> Chapell of Longryge."<sup>5</sup>

1560 John Daniell, Richard Ashe, "wardens of the Parish Church of Ribchester."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ceth. Soc., xxii., 473.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 474.

<sup>3</sup> *Palat. Note Book*, iii., 43.

<sup>4</sup> Chet. Soc., lx., 211.

<sup>5</sup> Cheth. Soc., lx., 262.

<sup>6</sup> *Ducatus Lancastrie*, vii., J.D.

- 1629 John Romsbotham, warden of Ribchester.  
 1639 Robert Cherrimon, warden of Hothersall.<sup>1</sup>  
 1641-2 Hugh Hacking, John Seed, "wardens for Alston and  
 Hothersall."<sup>2</sup>

RIBCHESTER, DUTTON, AND  
 HOTHERSALL.

- 1666 Rawcliffe Robert  
 Dewhurst Richard  
 Greenwoode Richard  
 1667 Hayhurst Senr John  
 Dewhurst Thomas, for  
 Lower Dutton  
 Daniell Richard  
 1668 Lund James  
 Hayhurst Henry  
 Walsh Thom.  
 1669 Lycerne James  
 Alston Thom.  
 Seede Thom.  
 1670 Cottome Lawrence  
 Ribchester John  
 Norcross Willm  
 1671 Carter Richard senr  
 Ryding Rich  
 Slaiter Ellis  
 1672 Seede Jonathan  
 Hackin Willm  
 Tho. Halsall, & James Hindle  
 is to serve in his roome  
 1673 Marsh John  
 Duckett John  
 Hindle James  
 1674 Seede Henry  
 Kenion John  
 Ratcliffe Willm.  
 1675 Greenwood Willm.  
 Dewhayrst Thomas  
 Charnocke John for Bro.

DILWORTH AND ALSTON.

- Rodes George  
 Walmsley Henry  
 Ratcliffe Edward  
 Bleasdale James  
 Lyill Tho :  
 Willisee Robert  
 Leemyng Richard  
 Bleasdale Robert, hyred for the  
 once of . . Norcross House  
 Leemyng Rich. hyred for Lawr  
 Cottome of the High House  
 Bleasdale Robert hyred for  
 Richard Wilkinson  
 Reade Robert  
 Ratcliffe George  
 Norcross James  
 Turner, Miles, & George Rat-  
 cliffe is to serve in his  
 roome  
 Cowper Richard  
 Daniell Tho. & George Ratcliffe  
 is to officiate for him  
 Roades Edward  
 Greenwood Richard serves for  
 widdow Eccles<sup>3</sup>  
 Roades Edward to serve for  
 widdow Townley  
 Dewhurst Willm. for Croyden  
 House

<sup>1</sup> See page 163.

<sup>2</sup> *Palat. Note Book*, iii, 45.

<sup>3</sup> The custom of churchwardens  
 serving by proxy was common; but

we do not remember to have met with  
 the case of a woman being elected  
 before.



1676	Blackborne Richard Ash Edward Daniell Robert	Roades Edward senr Robert
1677	Jenkinson John Sowerbutts Richard Baker Richard	Kellett Henry Slaiter Ellis
1678	Jackson Thomas Settels Richard Hindle James	Cottom Henry, of Mill ffisicke Robert
1679	Norerosse Willm. Pickering John Naden Edmund	Stursacker George Bleasdell Robert
1680	Cottom Lawrence, Miller Hacking William, for Houldenhouses Hothersall William	Eccles George Slater Thomas
1681	Dewhurst William Hayhurst Lawrence de Haugh Hesmondhalgh Elis	Billington John Shuttleworth Richard
1682	Ward John Townley Abraham, Gentleman Naden Edmund	Singleton John Hasall Thomas
1683	Hadock Lawrence Barlow Richard Wilkinson Richard	Read Robert Wallton Richard
1684	ffoster John Ash Robert Seed John	Read Robert Lund James
1685	Dewhurst John Ort William Dewhurst Thomas	Cottom Ric. Parkinson John
1686	Charnock John Cottom Richard  Greenwood John	Hilles Thomas Parkinson John, to serve for Edward Whallmeley
1687	Carter William Ash Edward Slater Ellis	Wattson Robert Willesee Thomas
1688	Dewhurst James Jackson John Hesminhalgh Ellice	Read Robert Pemberton Richard
1689	Hayhurst Henry  Dewhurst Roger	. . . . . Taylor James

1690	Horne Richard	Wareing Thomas
	Dewhurst Thomas	Willesee Thomas
	Baker Aran	
1691	Naden Edmund	Newsham Thomas
	Danzell Robert	Ward John
	Ribchester Henery	
1692	Pye Thomas	Dolphin Robert
	Sourbutts Thomas	Taylor James
	Wilkinson Richard	
1693	Greenells John	Page Jeremiah
	Dewhurst Richard	Haydocke George
1		
	Dolphin Robert	
1699	Norcrosse Thomas	Parkinson John
	Roades Hugh	Singleton Thomas
	Bartton Henery	
1702	Hayhurst Richard	
2		
1706	Dewhurst John	Singleton John
	Dewhurst James	Charnley Henry
	Cowell Henry	
1707	Dewhurst Clayton	Singleton Thomas
	Dewhurst Richard	Norcross William
	Greenwood John	
1708	Hesmonhalgh Rob	Leeming Tho
	Sowerbutts Tho	Ratcliff George
	Greenwood Richard	
1709	Dewhurst Clayton	Norcross Willm
	Townley Henry	Norcross Richd
	Greenwood Jon	
1710	Haword Ed	Cottam Law
	Hide Jon	Woodhouse Wm
	Greenwood Rich	
1711	Willesey Thomas	Townley Humphery
	Ryding Thomas	Midlton John
	Dewhurst Jon	
1712	Greenwood Tho	Seele Robt
	Carter Henry	Gelibrand Wm
	Greenwood John	
1713	Haddock Lawrence	Singleton John junr
	Coort Thomas	Daniell Ellis
	Threlfall James	
1714	Horn Ja :	Singleton Tho
	Greenalls Ja	Bushell Ja
	Ireland Jon	

<sup>1</sup>The names are missing from  
1694-98.

<sup>2</sup>The names are missing from  
1703-5.

1717	Haydock James Greenalls Rich <sup>d</sup> Kay Jon	Haddock Seth Eccles Seth
1718	Haddock Jas Greenalls Rich <sup>d</sup> Greenwood Jon	Haddock Seth Eccles Seth
1719	Haddock Jas Slayter Dan <sup>l</sup> Dewhurst Jas	Haddock Seth Slayter Rich
1720	Pye Jon Townley Henry Norcross William	Bourn Hen. Slayter Rich <sup>d</sup>
1721	Walsh Rogr Ryding Tho Greenwood Rich <sup>d</sup>	Townley Humphrey Norcross Willm
1722	Winckley Tho Dewhurst Hen Cottam Sam <sup>l</sup>	Thompson Benjamin Ratcliffe Robert
1723	Carter John Bateson Richard Ratcliffe Joseph or Robert	Cottam Richard Strickland John
1724	Charnley Richard He-mondhalgh John Greenwood Thomas	Seed John Dickinson Lawrence
1727	Entwistle Edward Dewhurst Tho Kay John	Bourn Henry Jenkinson John
1728	Norcrosse Tho Cutler Jon Daniel Ellis	Townley Hen Lund Roger
1729	Hayhurst Rich <sup>d</sup> Townley Henry Kay Jon	Singleton John sen <sup>r</sup> Haighton James
1730	Hayhurst Richard Townley Henry Kay Jon	Singleton John sen <sup>r</sup> Haighton James
1731	Watson Richard ffisher Alexander Greenwood Matthew	Haydock Seth Gelibrand Jon
1732	Ireland John Sherborne Richard Wilowsey Robert	Singleton John Strickland William
1733	Arden Nathan Dewhurst Miler Wilowsey Robert	Born Tho Longworth Tho

1734	Eastham Tho Dewhurst James Wilowsey Robt	Rhods Edwd Strickland John
1735	Greenwood John Dewhurst Henry Wilowsey Robt	Rhods Edward Dickinson John
1736	Alston John Ellison Mathew Kay John	Rhodes Robert Dobson John
1737	Alston John Ellison Mathew Walton Thomas	Seed John Dickison Edward
1738	Watson Richard Hesmonhalgh Ellis Councel Wm	Singleton John elder Walton Thomas
1739	Halsall Thomas Hesmonhalgh John Wilowsey Robert	Singleton John Charnley Henry
1740	Longworth James Hesmonhalgh John Singleton John	Born Henry Hewood Joseph
1741	Seed Thomas Salsbury Christopher Singleton John	Tomson William Hewood Joseph
1742	Carter Jon Ryding Rich <sup>d</sup> Osbaldeston Jon	Born Jon Haywood Joseph
1743	Pye John Dewhurst James Willowsey Robert	Newsom John Haywood Joseph
1744	Charnley Richard Dewhurst James Ireland John	Osbaldeston John Howard Joseph
1745	Bery Thomas Dewhurst Thomas Ireland John	Morris William Howard Joseph
1746	Shorock John Dewhurst Thomas Seed Thomas	Cottom Lawrence Howard Joseph
1747	Eastham Thomas Shirborn Richard Greenwood John	Cottam Lawrence Parkinson Thomas
1748	Greenwood John Dewhurst Henry Greenwood John	Singleton John elder Slater Daniell

1749	Pye John Dewhurst Thomas Key William	Singleton John elder Eckles Edmond
1750	Alston Jon Sherburn Richd Willacy Robt	Tomnson William Norcross William
1751	Alston Jon Hesmonhalgh Ellis Willacy Robt	Smith Jno Clough William
1753	Eastham Thos Cutler Wm Fletcher Mick	Cottam Jno Ratcliffe Robt
1754	Charnley Wm Dewhurst Miles Boothman John	Shuttleworth Ried Hacking Thomas
1755	Alston Thomas Whalebank Richa Margnison William	Eastham John Seed Thomas junr
1756	Greenhalgh Robt Slater James Hacking William	Hacking Thomas Rattcliff George
1757	Berry Thomas Lund Adam Greenwood John	Bourne John Rattcliff George
1758	Watson Thomas Dewhurst John Kay William	Seed John Lund William
1759	Shorrock John Sherburn Richard Charnley John	Moorhouse William Ayrland John
1760	Fletcher John Fletcher James Threlfal John	Hesmonhalgh William Salthouse William
1762	Clayton Joseph Dewhurst James Greenwood John	Strickleton John Lund William
1763	Balshaw William Haddock William Greenwood John vice Tho : Swarbrick	Singleton Cuthbert Radcliffe George
1764	Pye James Strickland John Hacking William	Burn John Smith John
1765	Hargreaves John Gabbot John Morehouse George	Cottam Lawrance Slayter Ellis



1766	Watson William Walton Thomas Hacking William	Mayo John Hayhurst John
1767	Langfield Joseph Walton Thomas Hacking William	Cross John Whalley James
1768	Pye George Fletcher James Boothman Jno	Gabbat Jno Nuttall David
1769	Clayton Joseph Slater James Boothman Jno	Seed John Radcliffe George
1770	Graystock Henry Helm Robt Ritchmond Edw <sup>d</sup>	Seed Thomas Brogden Thomas
1771	Thos Alston Rich <sup>d</sup> Nuttall John Greenwood	John Strickland John Parkinson
1772	James Pye Thos. Huthersel Thos Seed	Jno Norcross Jno Crossley
1773	Thos Greenwood Rich <sup>d</sup> Dewhurst Jno Bradely	Thos Spencer George Radcliffe
1774	Thos Greenwood Rich <sup>d</sup> Dewhurst Jas Carter substituted by Ja Berry	Thos Hacking Jas Wallace
1775	James Berry Geo Slayer by Rich Dewhurst Willm Margerison	Jno Strickland Thos Eccles
1776	George Pye Richard Dewhurst William Waddington	William Bourn George Radcliffe
1777	William Woods Thomas Dewhurst Edward Richmond	James Cross George Radcliffe
1778	William Fox Thomas Dewhurst Edward Richmond	John Wallbank George Radcliffe
1779	William Fox Thomas Walton Edward Richmond	William Hesmondhalgh George Ratcliffe for Eliz Hothersall
1780	William Fox for John Cottom Thomas Dewhurst John Kay	Cuthbert Singleton George Ratcliffe for White Bull

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1781 | George Pye for Thos Swarbrick<br>Thomas Dewhurst<br>John Reader                             | John Greenwood<br>John Hayhurst   |
| 1782 | George Pye for William Hayhurst<br>Robert Helm<br>Richard Radcliffe for Ellen<br>Moorhouse  | John Singleton<br>George Radcliffe for George<br>Hothersall (Bolton fold) |
| 1783 | Edward Entwistle<br>Edward Hesmondhalgh<br>John Kay for William Rogerson                    | John Shuttleworth<br>John Cross   |
| 1784 | Edward Entwistle for James<br>Kendal<br>Thomas Walton<br>John Kay for Richard Swarbrick     | John Shuttleworth<br>John Cross for John Abraham                          |
| 1785 | Thomas Towers<br>Richard Dewhurst<br>John Kay for Peter Waterhouse                          | John Mayo<br>George Radcliffe for James<br>Whiteside                      |
| 1786 | Edward Entwistle for John<br>Darwen<br>George Slater<br>John Kay for Mary Mascay            | John Mayo<br>Nicholas Bourn   |
| 1787 | Henry Seed<br>Thomas Dewhurst<br>John Kay   | Thomas Walibank<br>James Skilbeck   |
| 1788 | James Pye<br>Richard Caulthurst<br>John Kay for James Madely                                | Thomas Spencer<br>Samuel Macmillan  |
| 1789 | Thomas Ellison<br>Richard Dewhurst substituted<br>by Richard Caulthurst<br>William Weddrone | William Strickland<br>William Clough                                      |
| 1790 | Thomas Ellison<br>Richard Coulthurst<br>William Weddicre                                    | William Strickland<br>William Clough                                      |
| 1791 | Thomas Ellison for William Pye<br>Edward Hesmondhalgh for<br>Richard Wilson                 | Joseph Topper<br>James Fowler   |
| 1792 | John Hog<br>John Hesmondhalgh<br>Robert Sharples  | John Ireland<br>John Singleton  |
| 1793 | John Hesmondhalgh<br>John Watson<br>Ellis Hesmondhalgh                                      | Thomas Longton<br>James Wallis  |
| 1794 | Edmond Eastham substituted<br>by George Pye<br>Thomas Walton<br>John Gilliburn              | Edward Greenwood<br>Edward Ashton   |

1795	Richard Greenalls Edward Hesmondhalgh Margaret Ellison substituted by John Greenwood	William Norcrosse substituted by John Shuttleworth Thomas Makinson
1796	Thomas Watson substituted by Richard Greenall John Cutler John Norcross by John Greenwood	John Seed George Barton
1797	Richard Hesmondhalgh John Lund William Kay	Thomas Bailey Thomas Marsden
1798	James Sharples Richard Dewhurst Thomas Ormerod	Richard Dixon James Haworth
1799	Jno Seed substituted by Jas Sharples James Gillibrand Jno Kay	Wm Hesmondhalgh Joseph Topper
1800	John Greenwood Richard Hesmondhalgh John Swarbrick	Ellis Slater Roger Fleming
1801	John Kay Rich <sup>d</sup> Hesmondhalgh Rob <sup>t</sup> Reeder	Thos Badger John Hayhurst substituted Thos Makinson
1802	Richard Forest Thomas Dewhurst Henry Ireland	Thos Clayton John Whitaker
1803	Daniel Slater Richard Cutler George Willcock	Joseph Dewhurst John Hitchen
1804	Robert Martin William Ireland William Martin	William Rhodes Samuel Dean
1805	Robert Martin Richard Dewhurst of Grindle- stone house William Martin	Robert Strickland John Howard
1806	George Dewhurst Richard Dewhurst Thomas Wilcock	Thomas Eastham Joseph Pye
1807	George Barton James Boothman William Kay Farrer	Richard Parkinson William Alston

1808	John Rothwell Rich <sup>d</sup> Coultherst William Wilkinson	John Bourn John Todd
1809	John Rothwell Rich <sup>d</sup> Coultharst Thos Kay	John Bourn John Todd
1810	John Rothwell Rich Parker Robert Sharples	Thomas Seed Edward Ashton
1811	Richard Greenall Robert Greenall William Kay, Granam House	Thomas Seed Christopher Nuttall
1812	Richard Greenall Robert Greenall William Kay	Thomas Roades James Pye
1813	Thomas Marsden John Eddlestone William Whalley	James Spencer Robert Rhodes
1814	Thomas Marsden John Eddlestone James Gillibrand	John Kay Evan Banks
1815	Thomas Marsden Mr. Emett Will <sup>m</sup> Richardson	Anthony Serratt Richard Shuttleworth
1816	Thomas Marsden John Hesmondhalgh John Bourne	L. Parker W. Buck, Esq.
1817	Thomas Marsden Richard Hesmondhalgh George Wilcock	John Smith William Clough

DILWORTH, ALSTON, AND  
STYDD.

1818	Thomas Marsden David Hesmondhalgh Thomas Watson	Thomas Woods David Nuttall Edward Hesmondhalgh
1819	Thomas Marsden David Hesmondhalgh Thomas Watson	Thomas Woods David Nuttall Edward Hesmondhalgh
1820	Thomas Greenwood John Carter Thomas Jackson	Thomas Dixon Thomas Jump Edward Hesmondhalgh
1821	Robert Hesmondhalgh John Carter Joseph Pomfret	John Seed Edward Sager Henry Greenall
1822	Robert Hesmondhalgh Joseph Eatough Thomas Wilcock	John Seed Edmund Sager Thomas Lund

1823	Robert Hesmondhalgh Robert Hesmondhalgh junior Henry Whalley	William Mercer Robert Rhodes Thomas Lund
1824	Robert Hesmondhalgh John Berry George Wilcock	William Hesmondhalgh Richard Moss Wm Cutler
1825	Wm White Robert Greenall Isaac Counsel	William Hesmondhalgh Richard Moss Wm Cutler
1826	Edmund Dewhurst Thomas Pinder George Wilcock	William Hesmondhalgh Richard Moss William Timbrell
1827	Rich Riding Miles Alston James Sefton	Christopher Alston James Jackson William Timbrell
1828	John Calvert David Hesmondhalgh John Watson	Wm Marsden Jas Hayhurst Henry Greenall
1829	John Sowerbutts Wm Allsup Robert Barton	Thos Fleming Thomas Town Henry Greenall
1830	John Sowerbutts Wm Allsup Hugh Pickering	James Norcross Henry Ormerod H. Greenall
1831	Richard Picking Wm Allsup Hugh Pickering	Thomas Marsden John Hayhurst John Ward
1832	Richard Ryding James Smithies Thomas Silcock	Wm Marsden Richard Parkinson John Ward
1833	R. Ryding James Smithies Mr. Silcock	Thos Marsden Richard Parkinson Mr. Cornell
1834	Richard Riding James Smithies Thos Wilcock	Thos Parkinson Dennis Ormerod John Berry
1835	Richard Riding Robert Hesmondhalgh Thomas Wilcock	Thurston Greenall Thomas Heming Jas Berry
1836	Richard Riding Robert Hesmondhalgh Thomas Wilcock	Thurston Greenall Thomas Fleming James Berry
1837	Richard Riding Robert Greenall Thos Wilcock	James Spencer Henry Parkinson Henry Whalley



1838	Mr. Addison John Wallbank John Eccles	James Spencer John Windle William Eastham
1839	Roger Dewhurst John Eatough John Eccles	Richard Parkinson John Slater Thos Hesmondhalgh
1840	Roger Dewhurst James Waring Thos Holden	Thos McCoskery Robert Wallbank Henry Greenall
1841	Robert Hesmondhalgh Edward Rhodes John Barton	Robert Rhodes John Parson William Bourn
1842	Robert Hesmondhalgh Robert Hesmondhalgh John Barton	Robert Rhodes John Parson William Bourn
1843	Robert Hesmondhalgh John Smithies John Barton	Robert Rhodes John Parson James Seed
1844	Robert Hesmondhalgh John Smithies Thos. Nuttall	Robert Rhodes John Parson John Tipping
1845	Richard Greenall Richard Cutler John Walne	Thos Spencer John Walmsley No one elected for Stydd
<sup>1</sup>		
1851	Reuben Alston Peter Walker James Chadburn	James Nuttall Christopher Parkinson James Margerison
1852	Thos. Carter Peter Walker Thomas Kay	James Nuttall Christopher Parkinson James Walne
1853	Thos Carter Peter Walker James Hindle	William Dixon William Rhodes James Walne
1854	Robert Addison Isaac Hardiker James Hindle	Robert Kaye Wm Alston Henry Greenall
1855	Robert V. Addison Isaac Hardiker James Hindle	James Dixon William Halsall Henry Forrest
1856	Robert V. Addison Robert Greenall James Hindle	Thurston Greenall John Walne John Wallbank
1857	Robert V. Addison Robert Greenall Thomas Fenton	William Taylor Joseph Calderbank Henry Whalley

<sup>1</sup> No list from 1846-50.

1858	Reuben Alston	James Croasdale
	Mr. Walker	Christopher Parkinson
	John Barton	Henry Forrest
1859	Edward Alston	Richard Parkinson
	Peter Walker	Richard Sharples
	Thos Dewhurst	Henry Forrest
1860	Edward Alston	John Banks
	Peter Walker	Reginald Alston
	Thomas Dewhurst	Thos Dewhurst
1861	Joseph Whittaker	John Banks
	Richard Smithies	Reginald Alston
	Thos Dewhurst	James Margerison
1862	Joseph Whittaker	William Dixon
	Richard Smithies	Reginald Alston
	Thos Nuttall	John Wallbank
1863	Edward Entwistle	William Dixon
	Robert Greenall	John Sanderson
	William Dewhurst	John Wallbank
1864	Edmund Dewhurst	William Fisher
	Henry Shuttleworth	John Sanderson
	Thos Jackson	James Sefton
1865	Edmund Dewhurst	John Fowler
	Henry Shuttleworth	Richard Robinson
	Robert Marsh	Joseph Pinder
1866	Mark Hardiker	Robert Smith, Esq
	James Mercer	Benjamin Walmsley, Esqr
	Robert Marsh	Joseph Pinder
1857	Mark Hardiker	Robert Smith, Esqr
	James Mercer	Benjamin Walmsley, Esqr
	Robert Marsh	Joseph Pinder

### THE PARISH OFFICIALS.

Bishop Gastrell says "the Clark is chosen by the Heir of Hoghton Tower." <sup>1</sup> If this refers to the Parish Clerk, we can only say we have found no evidence that such was the custom, at any rate in post Reformation days. The duties of the Clerk at Ribchester seem to have been of some importance. Along with the churchwarden he was ordered by "the gentlemen" to see that the Curfew bell was daily rung; he had to keep the Register; "tent" the clock; and was appointed to collect money for the repair of the church. (See Chap. II.)

The following list of clerks, with the year of their appointment, is as complete as we can make it:—

<sup>1</sup> *Cheth. Soc.*, xxii., 473.

1617-61 Arthur Sowerbutts.	1793-1800 Henry Carter.
1662-76 Arthur Dewhurst.	1800-15 John Gregson.
1676-97 Roger Dewhurst.	1815-36 Thomas Gregson.
1697-99 William Carter.	1836-72 Robert Gregson.
1699-1702 John Parkinson.	1872-84 Joseph Walton.
1702-1753 Josiah Peele.	1884 Richard Walton.
1754-1793 John Singleton	

Roger Dewhurst was a model clerk, and evidently a well-educated man. His entries in the Registers are conspicuous for their clearness, and are in remarkable contrast to those of the previous "Registrar," who was the Rector himself, the Rev. W. Ingham.

William Carter left by his will (dated 11th June, 1699) his "best hatt and ryding coat" to his friend Richard Pemberton, senr. The inventory of his goods amounted to £48 4s. 8d.; his debts being just £50. He was buried at Ribchester, June, 13, 1699.

Josiah Peele is remarkable for having written a letter to "Dr. Ogden in Chester," dated November 27, 1738, in which he said: "Your father (Rev. George Ogden) succeeded William Ingham, the Vicar of Ribchester, who was buried here October 25, 1681."<sup>1</sup> Josiah Peele married Dorothy King, of Alston, May 5, 1702; and was buried at Ribchester, Nov. 12, 1753.

Three members of the Gregson family, father, son, and grandson, held the post of clerk in succession for nearly a century.

Robert Gregson died in 1886, aged 82, and was buried at Ribchester.

#### THE SEXTONS.

Only an incomplete list of sextons can be found:

1690-1708 Thomas Cutler.	1751-75 George Gorner.
1708-16 Ellis Hayhurst.	1775-99 Robert Gorner.
1716-31 William Gorner.	1870 Benjamin Walton.
1731-51 George Hayhurst.	

The sexton had a coat provided for him from 1660 (or earlier) to 1850.

<sup>1</sup> *Raines*, MSS.

## CHAPTER VII.

## The Registers.



THE first register now in existence is a small folio book of parchment in a very fair state of preservation. It commences in 1598; but the earliest entries are almost illegible. However, the book is evidently a continuation of one of an earlier date, as it commences most abruptly. We give the entries for the first ten years *verbatim et literatim* (as far as possible).

On a slip of paper, at the beginning of the book, the late Rev. F. E. Perrin, Rector of Ribchester (1876-85), has made the following memoranda:—"To explain the *hiatae* in this book,

- 1635 Dissatisfaction and more existed between the people and King Charles 1st.
- 1637 Scotland was in insurrection; then Long Parliament entered into alliance with them.
- 1644 Battle of Marston Moor.
- 1645 Battle of Naseby.
- 1649 30 Jany.—King beheaded.
- 1654 Cromwell made Protector.
- 1658 Cromwell died; Richard succeeding him till
- 1660 Charles II<sup>nd</sup> restored (23 May).
- 1685 Charles II<sup>nd</sup> died, and James II<sup>nd</sup> succeeded.
- 1688 Wm. and Mary.

"During the Commonwealth the Registers of Baptisms and Burials seem to have been kept, with some intervals, but none of marriages (?) which I suppose was from the opinion that marriage is a civil contract, and may have been celebrated before the civil magistrate.<sup>1</sup>

"But the book requires careful examination; and the entries go backwards and forwards, and here and there in a confusing manner.

9 Oct., '83.

F. E. P."

It will be noticed that baptisms and marriages are frequently recorded as being performed by Catholic priests—at first sight

<sup>1</sup> Of course, such was the fact. Mr. Perrin seems to have been unaware of

the entries of marriages in Preston Registers.





- Nov. 18, Roger Seudell in the p'she of Preston and Grace Duddell in this parish
- 1677 Sep. 15, Lawrence Cottom of ye high howse and Anne Burn in the p'sh of Chippin.
- 1628 May 18, John Kellie and Anne Twogood.  
July 16, Richard Bilsborowe and Margaret Albin both in this p'she.  
Dec. 13, Adam Lund and Janne Birley.
- <sup>1</sup> 1630 Jan. 14, John Wallmisley of Bashall and Jane Blackborne in the p'she of Blackborne.
- 1662 Aug. 28, Marryed was Henry Bentley of the parish of Hallifax and Mary Horrocks of the parish of Ribchester.
- 1663 May 24, Marryed was Peter Parkinson and Mary Whittingham both of the parish of Goosnargh.  
Aug. 13, Marryed was Rob. Thorpe and Annie Mitton both of the parish of Whalley.
- 1664 Feb. 23, Marryed was Thom Cutler and Margaret Norcrosse.  
The same day was Mr John Calvert and Mary Ingham<sup>2</sup> married at Church Kirk.
- 1664 July 17, Mar. was Robert Cowell of Goosnargh and Dorothy Bath of the parish of Chippin.
- 1665 Nov. 30, Marr : was Tho : Smith of ye parish of Goosnargh and Alice Horne of ye parish of Ribchester.
- 1666 Jan. 24, Marryed was Joseph Emot of Ackerington and Margaret Thornley of parish of Chippin.
- 1667 June 3, Marryed was Willm. Walmysley of Salisberry and Elizab. Sharples of Ribchester.
- 1668 Sept. [22], Vicesimo Secundo die, Nupt. fuerunt Wiil'us Ingham, Vicar, et Gracea Hesminhough.
- 1672 Aug. 8, Marryed was Robert Ash of Dutton and Ellin Habbergham of Padiham.
- 1673 Jan. 28, Marryed was Roger Elston de Ribbleton infra parochia de Preston et Elizabeth Eckles of Dilworth.
- 1675 June 3, Marry was Lawrence Cottome of ye parish of Ribchester and Elizabeth Dickson of Kirkham.
- 1676 Jan. 27, Edward Ash and Elizabeth Crombleholme of Slaidborne.
- 1679 Feb. 13, John Singleton and Ellin Naden botn of this parish.
- 1687 [June 3], Mr Richard Hoghton of Grimsargh and Mrs Sarah Whittingham were marryed by a licence from Dr. Bushell, June ye 3rd, pd 10s—which sum of ten shillings is due wn ye partys marryed are extra parochiall: this ye least. And to ye clarke is due two shillings by a licence out of ye parish; one shilling wn ye partys in ye parish are marryed.
- 1682 Aug. 19, Richard Dewhurst and Catherine Houghton.
- 1683 Sep. 16, Thomas Seed and Jane Ratcliffe of Alston, three times asked in ye church.
- 1684 Oct. 27, John Dale of Clitherowe and Alice Hothersall of Ribchester.

<sup>1</sup> No entries of marriages occur in the Register between 1630 and 1661.

<sup>2</sup> See page 150.

- 1685 Married, upon ye coronation day of King James ye Second, John Greenwood and Elline Norcrosse, both of Ribchester.
- 1701 Oct. 1, Sherburne Crumblam de Stid and Rebeca Marsden de Settle.
- 1703 July 20, Robert Brand and Marth etc. de Garstine pr license.
- 1705 June 20, John Turuer de Rib. Malster, and Catherine Norcross of ye same wid.
- Aug. 26, Robt Goring of Gorton in p'sh Manchester and Catherine Ratcliffe of Dutton, being 3 times lawfully pubd
- Oct. 18, Delivered a Sertificate upon ye intended marige of Lawrence Hill of ye p'sh Prescott and Annie ffisick de Ribchester, being 3 times lawfully published.
- 1707 June 27, John Wilkinson and Ruth Hudson, both of this parish, married per Romish Priest.
- Feb. 17, John Winkley and Elizth Glave, both of this parish, married per Romish Priest.
- Feb. 23, Mr Richard Traftord and Martha Horn, both of Ribchester.
- Dec. 11, Jon Wharton and Jane Bradley de Dilt, per papist priest.
- 1710 May 3, John Huthersall and Elizabeth Beesly, per papist priest de Alston.
- Nov. 11, Edward Hesmondhalgh de Wilpshire and Eliz. Cottam de Dutton, at Stid, per Mr Johnson.
- 1711 June 7, Richard Greenalls and Grace Stertivant de Dutton per lycense.
- 1719 Nov. 30, Robt Cookson, Batchlor, de parish Giglesweek, Yorkshire, and Alice Topping, spinster, de parish Preston by virtue of a license granted by Mr. Johnson, vicar.
- 1720 Aug. 9, William Tindels, Merseur de Giglesweek Yorkshire, and Jane Boyse de Preston.
- 1721 May 2, Jas. Cottam, feltmaker and Isabel Anderton, spinster, both of this parish.
- 1722 April 29, Mark Langfield, sadler de Waddington in parish of Mitton and Mary Waterhouse, spinster de Ribchester mard by banns and certified by Mr. Lancaster, Curate de Waddington.
- Aug. 23, William Pritchard, Apothecary de Preston and Anne Alderston, spinster de Askrig in Yorkshire.
- Oct. 2, Tho. Ryding, cheesemonger and Anne Threlfall, widow both of this parish.
- 1723 Sept. 5, Joseph Curtise, widower, attorney-at-law and Jane Higginson, widow both of Preston.
- 1724 June 9, Jon Eastham, Doct. de Manchester and Elizabeth Parker, spinster de Preston.
- 1725 Aug. 17, Christopher Wilowsey, Tanner, and Elizabeth Hesmondhalgh, spinster both of this parish.
- Dec. 3, Robt Farrar gent de parish Castle Ward de Clitherow and Mary Bond, spinster de parish Chipping.
- 1726 Feb. 20, Wm Dillworth, Schoolmaster and Jane Leech, spinster both of ye parish of Chippin.
- 1727 June 4, Ralph Netle, sciner de Middlewich in Cheshire and Elizabeth Greenalls, spinster de Ribchester.

- 1729 Oct. 30, Robt Hesketh, clerk, Curet of Beconsall Chapel in ye parish of Croston and Elizabeth Stanley spinster of ye parish of Preston.  
Dec. 11, Richard Loxam, sailor de Liverpool and Anne Norcross, spinster de Ribchester.
- 1730 Mar. 30, James Benson of Ribby-cum-Wray in ye parish of Kirkham, gent and Susana Wilkinson of ye township of Blackburn, spinster, married by license granted by Mr Dikson Viccar of Kirkham and married by ye aforesaid Mr Dikson at Ribchester.  
May 6, William ffrance, gent. bachelor and Sarah Hall, widow, both of ye parish of Preston.  
Oct. 11, Richard Shuttleworth, blacksmith de Alston and Anne Abram, spinster of ye chappelry of Goosnargh.  
Nov. 3, James Watmough, searge weaver, widower and Ellen Seed, spinster, both of Ribchester.
- 1731 May 31, Thomas Longworth, gent. de Preston and Elizabeth Holms, wid. of Ribchester.
- 1732 Dec. 21, Richard Dixon, clerk, curet of Longridge and Mary Singleton, spinster both of this parish.  
Dec. 2, Tho. Gooday, pauper and Mary Yeates, widow both of this parish.

[FROM THIRD REGISTER.]<sup>1</sup>

- 1736 Aug. 5, Mathew Worthington, Clerk, curet of Woodplumton and Catherine Willson spinster of the same.
- 1774 July 2, John Parkinson, attorney-at-law, and Mary Charnly spinster, by lycense granted by Mr. Parker, curet of Grimsargh.

## CHRISTENINGS.

- 1599 October 17, John son of Ellis Cottam baptised.  
24, John Osboldeston the son of Edward Osboldestone of Osboldeston Esquire.
- 1600 April 9, Robt Boulton the son of Lanslet Boulton of the p'ish of Blackburn.  
Maye 25, John Smaley the son of Robt Smaley of Dutton in the p'ish of Stede.  
Edmund Hurst sonn of Edmund Hurst of Rybchester p'ish.  
29, Thomas Walmysley alias Dutton of Rogger Dutton of Osboldestone.
- Julye 20,.....Crosse  
27, James Shepherd alias Seede baptised.
- Auguste 1, Ellis alias Ashe.....baptised.  
3, George Answorth of the p'ish of Blackburne.  
4, John Ribchester son of John Ribchester.  
21, Thomas Southeworth the son of John Southeworth of Samsbury, Esquire.

<sup>1</sup> The third register contains entries of marriages 1735-53; burials, 1736-1773; and baptisms, 1735-73. On the

fly-leaf is endorsed: "This book was bought of Mr. Hopkins, Preston, prise 19s.



- 1614 Sept. 4, Anne Sowerbutts daughter of Arthur Sowerbutts in Ribchester.  
Anne the daughter of Ather Surbutts [apparently a duplicate entry.]  
11, Alles the daughter of Rich Horne.  
24, Jenet and Grace Newsome, twinlles.
- October 6, Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Church.  
9, Edward the son of George Hayhurst.  
11, Raufe the sonne of Raufe Chenton (?)  
Jane the daughter of Marsden.
- November 11, Thomas Eccles, sonne of Beniamin Eccles.  
22, Roger Jacson of ye p'she of blackburne.  
27, John Cottom son of James Cottom.  
28, Augustine Shearburne ye son of Mr. Richard Shearburne.
- 1615 (?) October 2, Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Bleakley.  
5, Edward the sonne of George Hayhurst.
- December 5, Roger Ward, son of John Warde, gent.  
21, Thomas Tounley son of Richard tounley, gent.
- 1615-6 Januarie 5, Thomas Shearburne son of Ric. Shearburne, gent.  
19, James livesey, sone of Ric Livesey of balderstone.  
22, Sobestiane Mitchell sone of Robert Mitchell.  
25, Richard Morres sone of Adam Morres.
- ffebruarie 4, James borne the son of John Borne.  
9, William and Adam Alstone twinleres.  
16, Elizabeth barlowe daughter of John Barlowe of Dutton.  
18, George Birley son of John Birley.  
22, Robart and William Greene sons of Tho. Greene.
- March 3, Henrie Hayhurst.  
11, James Whytticar sone of James Whytticar.  
12, Chris Eccles sone of George Eccles.
- 1616 Aprill 4,.....Slater daughter of John Slater, Butcher.  
9, Roger Albine son of John Albine.
- 1620 April 23, Jane Cottam daughter of Thomas Cottam of ye High house.  
July 30, Ellizabeth Hothersall, daughter of Edward Hothersall in Hothersall.
- 1621 April 10, Jane Radcliffe daughter of Willm Radcliffe in Dilworth.  
11, Katherine Hayhurst daughter of Edward Hayhurst.  
13, Andrew Hindley son of Christopher Hindley, Vicar.....  
of Ribchester.  
May 7, Anne Seed daughter of Thomas Seed de Seed green.  
Sep. 10, Elizabeth Cottom daughter of Heugh Cottom, Slater.  
Dec. 4, Robert Ribchester son of Willm Ribchester in Ribchester.  
Dec 13, Jonathan Hayhurst son of Rich Hayhurst in Ribchester.
- 1622 March 6, Elizabeth ffilden daughter of Edward ffilden from Adam Greenwood in Hothersall.  
April 25, Thomas ffishwicke son of John ffishwicke ffurman.  
June 7, Elizabeth Houghton, daughter of Edward Houghton de Smithbotham, gent.
- 1623 Oct. 7, Richard Hothersall, son of John Hothersall, in Hothersall, gentleman.



- 1624 Feb. 22, Jenete, daughter of Ric. Walmsley, gentleman, in the parish of Blackburne.
- 1625 Feb. 6, Henry Cromblholme, son of Richard Cromblholme, gentleman.  
Sep. 4, Ric. Lingard, son of John Lingard, Ribchester.
- 1626 June 29, James, son of Thomas Dewhurst, de oud booatt.  
July 8, Mary, daughter of Robte Dewhurst, in ye parish of Mitton, gent.
- 1627 Jan. 7, Henry Hayhurst, son of John Hayhurst in Dutton, gent.
- 1628 June 3, John, son of John Higginson of Knowle Green.  
21, Syprian Peall, the daughter of John Peall, traveler.
- 1633 Feb. 3, John, son of Mr. Alexander Osbaldeston de Sunderland [Hall].  
3, Grace, the daughter of Mr. Ric. Haihurst, minister.
- 1634 Jan. 29, Elizabeth, the daughter of Rich. Sherburne in ye parish of Mitton, gent.
- 1639 Jan. 13, Tryphema, ye daughter of Ric. Crombhollm, in ye parish of Stede.
- 1648 Mar. 4, Thom. Nutter, son of Ellis Nutter of the water side.
- 1654 Feb. 11, William, the son of Edward Haughton of Steed.  
Sep. 4, Edward, the son of Edmund fiswicke of Gosner [Goosnargh].
- 1655 Feb. 23, Elizabeth. the daughter of Richard Ward, greene, gent.
- 1656 [Nov. 23], Margrett, tne daughter of Edmund Naden of Hothersall, was baptized 23 November, be me William Ingham.
- 1658 Apr. 3, Mary, the daughter of Richard Cromblholm of Steed.
- 1661 June 16, John, the son of Benjamin Hayhurst.
- 1664 Sep. 25, John Hayhurst, son of John Hayhurst of Ribchester.<sup>1</sup>
- 1666 Oct. 7, Magdalene, ye daughter of Jonathan Seede of Ribchester.
- 1669 May 10, Percivall, ye son of Percivall Ribchester de Ribchester.
- 1677 Oct. 21, Siath, ye son of Lawrence Hedock in Ribch.
- 1679 Mar. 3, a child of Robert Ash in ye parish of Stid, named Elizabeth Ash, Mrs. Fellgate is her god-mother.
- 1682 Apr. 9, Lawrence, ye son of Robert Cottam was christened at Whit-church in Shropshire.
- 1683 Aug. 12, Anne, ye daughter of Richard Walton of Alston, christened at Longridge.  
Aug. 21, George, ye son of Ellis Hayhurst of this towne (begotten of the body of Gerner's wife and Ellis Hayhurst, a common whore).
- 1691 June 24, a childe of George Norcrosse, Papist.
- 1692 June 30, Henry, ye son of Richard Bolton, de burgreene in Osbaldeston.  
Feb. 26, Anne, the daughter of Mr. William Gregson, Curt  
Nov. 24, Henery, the son of Bridgehat Dodes, *alias* Henery Parkinson of Ribchester.
- 1693 Sep. 10, Richard, the son of William Greenalls of Ribchester.
- 1694 Oct. —, Richard, the son of Thomas Newsnam, xtended in ye house.

#### BIRTHS AND BAPTISMS (FROM SECOND REGISTER).

- 1696 Sep. 22, Tho, ye son of John Osbaldeston de Dutton.
- 1697 Apr. 11, Thomas, ye son of Peeter Drinkwater, junr., de Dillworth.  
May 29, Sarah, ye daughter of Tho Huthersall de Huth., Esq.

<sup>1</sup> In a later handwriting is this note: "This is error; this John was Richard son of John Hayhurst, Richard Hay-

hurst and Wm. Norcrosse was his godfathers."

xv mary walter daughter of John walter in Holborn  
July 1623

x Anne Singleton daughter of John Singleton in Dillmouth  
xvi Thomas Boulton son of Lawrence Boulton  
in R. Lifford

Augst 1623  
xvii John Morvoss son of Adam Morvoss in R. Lifford  
xviii Nicholas Lamberts son of Nicholas Lamberts in R. Lifford  
xviii Francis Greenwood daughter of William  
Greenwood in Holborn

September 1623

xv Alis Bead daughter of George Bead m. wife  
xv James Parkes daughter of John Parkes  
in the Tombs of R. Lifford

xxviii William Gairhurst son of Henry  
Gairhurst in R. Lifford

October 1623  
xvi Roger Drayton son of John Drayton  
in the R. Lifford of Milton



- 1699 Oct. 11, Wm., ye son of Thurston Barlow de Dillworth, Anabaptist.  
 1700 Jan. 7, James, ye son of Wm. Pye de Ribchester.  
 Sep. 8, Edward, ye son of George Entwistle, in p'ish of Blackburn.  
 1702 May 17, Mary, ye daughter of Seth Eckls, de Alston.  
 1703 July 25, Jane, ye daughter of Henry Townley of Dutton, Esq.  
 1705 Mar. 4, Eliz., ye daughter of Tho. Chue, de Dutton, poor soldier.  
 Nov. 15, Then baptized Dorothy, daughter of Cleaton Dewhurst de Ribch. Its mother name is Alice.  
 Dec. 10, Then baptized, by Mr. Vavisa,<sup>1</sup> Tho., son of Robert Barton, Ribch., carpenter.  
 1706 Jan. 27, Samuell, ye son of Josiah Peele, p'ish clerke de Rib.  
 Feb. 17, Edmond, ye son of Seth Eckles, taner, de Alston.  
 19, Wm., ye son of John Cowell de Alston, husbandman, per Roman Preest.  
 Mar. 3, Robt., ye son of Robt. Goring de Gorton in p'sh of Manchester, being born in Dutton.  
 Apr. 22, Alice, ye daughter of Grace Cottam de Rib.; ye Reputed father is Lawrence Ward de Rib., yeoman.  
 July 14, Tho., ye son of Richard Cottam de Rib., carryer.  
 Aug. 6, Edward, ye son of James Hankinson, de Alston, yeoman, by a Papist priest.  
 Sep. 23, Alice, ye daughter of Mr. Jno. Ward de Rib., inkeeper.  
 1707 June 29, Richard, son of John Pinder de Rib., of ye Lower Boat.  
 1703 Feb. 26, Roger, son of Clayton Dewhurst de Ribchester, gent.<sup>u</sup>.  
 1710 Mar. 1, Edmond, son of Mr. Rich. Traford de Rib., gent.  
 1711 Apr. 29, Jane, daughter of Thomas Sourbuts de Dutton.  
 Sep. 9, Jon. son of Joshua Davis, officer of excise in Ribchester.  
 30, Tempest, son of Clayton Dewhurst de Rib.  
 1712 May 8, Hannah, daughter of Tho. Johnson, Vicar de Ribch.  
 1713 July 19, Patience, daughter of John Jackson, from Osbaldeston, a poor traveler.  
 1715 Feb. 6, Jenet, daughter of John Goodshaw de Alston.  
 Oct. 11, Basill, son of Rich. Traford, gent., born at Seed Green.  
 1718 Sep. 14, Seth, son of Seth Eckles de Alston.  
 1719 Jon, illegite son of Alice Townley, de Dillworth, spinster.  
 May 10, Margaret, daughter of Jon. Metcalfe, officer of Excise de Rib.  
 1720 Oct. 23, Tho., son of Jon. Browne de Ribch., cotton weaver.  
 1721 Mar. 26, Christopher, son of Tho. Dunderdall, de Rib., Tayler.  
 July 18, George, son of Willm. Gorney, Sextone de Ribch.  
 Dec. 31, Rich., son of Richd. Traford, gent.  
 1722 June 17, Jas., son of Jas. Watson, farmer de Stid Hall in Dutton.  
 Sep. 9, Robt., son of Richd. Greenals, felt maker de Rib.  
 1723 Feb. 17, Isabell, daughter of Wm. Woods, ffarmer de Ch : Bank in Rib.  
 24, Jane, daughter of Tho. Sudale, woolen draper de Alston.  
 Aug. 25, Alice, daughter of Jno. Helm, schoolmaster de Ribchester.  
 Sep. 22, Jane, daughter of Rich. Traford, gent. de Rib.  
 Nov. 24, Ellen, daughter of Jno. Pye, yomen de Rib.

<sup>1</sup> Fr. Walter Vavisour.

- 1725 Dec. 8, Robt., son of Rich. Traford, gent. de Dutton.  
 1726 Apr. 9, Tho., son of Willm Norcross, schoolmaster de Rib.  
           10, Tho., son of Tho. Ryding, cheesemonger de Dutton.  
       June 5, Richard, son of James Gilibrand de Blackburn p'sh.  
 1727 Jan. 12, Anne, daughter of Cuthbert Singleton, yeoman de Dillworth.  
       Sep. 24, James, son of Tho. Dewhurst, miller of Ward Green, Ribchester.  
 1728 Mar. 17, Lawrence, son of Roger Lund, yeoman de Alston.  
 1730 Mar. 22, William, son of John Singleton, senr., yeoman de Dillworth, baptz'd at Longridge Chappell.<sup>1</sup>  
       May 24, Mary, daughter of John Pepper, late officer of Excise de Ribchester.  
       Nov. 29, Jon, son of Luke Shorroek, boatman de Ribchester.  
 1731 Oct. 10, Jane, daughter of Tho. Stewart, traveller, born in Dutton.  
 1732 Feb. 13, Anne, daughter of Edward Entwistle de Ribch., gent.  
       Apr. 23, William, son of Jon. Singleton, senr., at Longridge Chapel.  
       Aug. 6, William, son of Henry Salsbury, inkeeper de Dutton.  
 1733 May 27, William, son of John Pye, yeoman de Ribch.  
 1734 Apr. 7, Townley, son of Edward Entwistle, gent., de Ribch.  
       Sep. 3, Nathan, son of Nathan Arden, cotton tradesman de Ribchester, rec'd into ye congregation.  
 1740 Feb. 25, Received into the Ch: Edward, son of Edward Entwistle, gent.  
 1754 Jan. 6, John, son of James Fisher, Curate of Ribchester.  
 1755 Nov. 16, A child from College<sup>2</sup> in Huthersall of unknown birth.  
 1760 Mar. 15, Richard, son of James Slater, soldier of Mallichia [militia].  
 1762 Jan. 3, Henry, the illegitimate son of Elizab. Rattcliff, alias Ribchester, the supposed wife of Wm. Rattcliffe, a soldier abroad.  
 1771 May 22, James, son of Joash Pye, landlord New Bridge.  
 1772 Nov. 18, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Dickson, a Traveler with a Puppit Shew.  
 1782 Apr. 21, Robert, son of Richard Greenalls, Ribchester.  
       Dec. 22, William, son of George Pye, Ribchester.  
 1785 Dec. 4, James, son of Joseph Walton, Ribchester.  
 1787 Feb. 13, Thomas, son of Charles Dewhurst, Ribchester.  
       Dec. 28, John, son of William Pye, Ribchester.  
 1791 Jan. 2, William, son of Richard Greenalls, Dutton.  
 1793 Nov. 24, Richard, son of Richard Greenalls, Dutton.  
 1794 Sep. 14, John, son of Lawrence Boothman, Ribchester.  
 1798 Oct. 18, Agnes, daughter of Rev. Robert Parkinson, Alston.  
 1801 May 10, Mary Hollet, of Alston, born May 21, 1781.

## BURIALS.

- 1598 December 18, Margaret Newton in Chch.  
       25, Elline Alston ye wyfe of.....Alston.  
       29, Will Wellesie, a lame man.

<sup>1</sup> Baptisms are from this date frequently recorded as solemnized at Longridge Chapel.

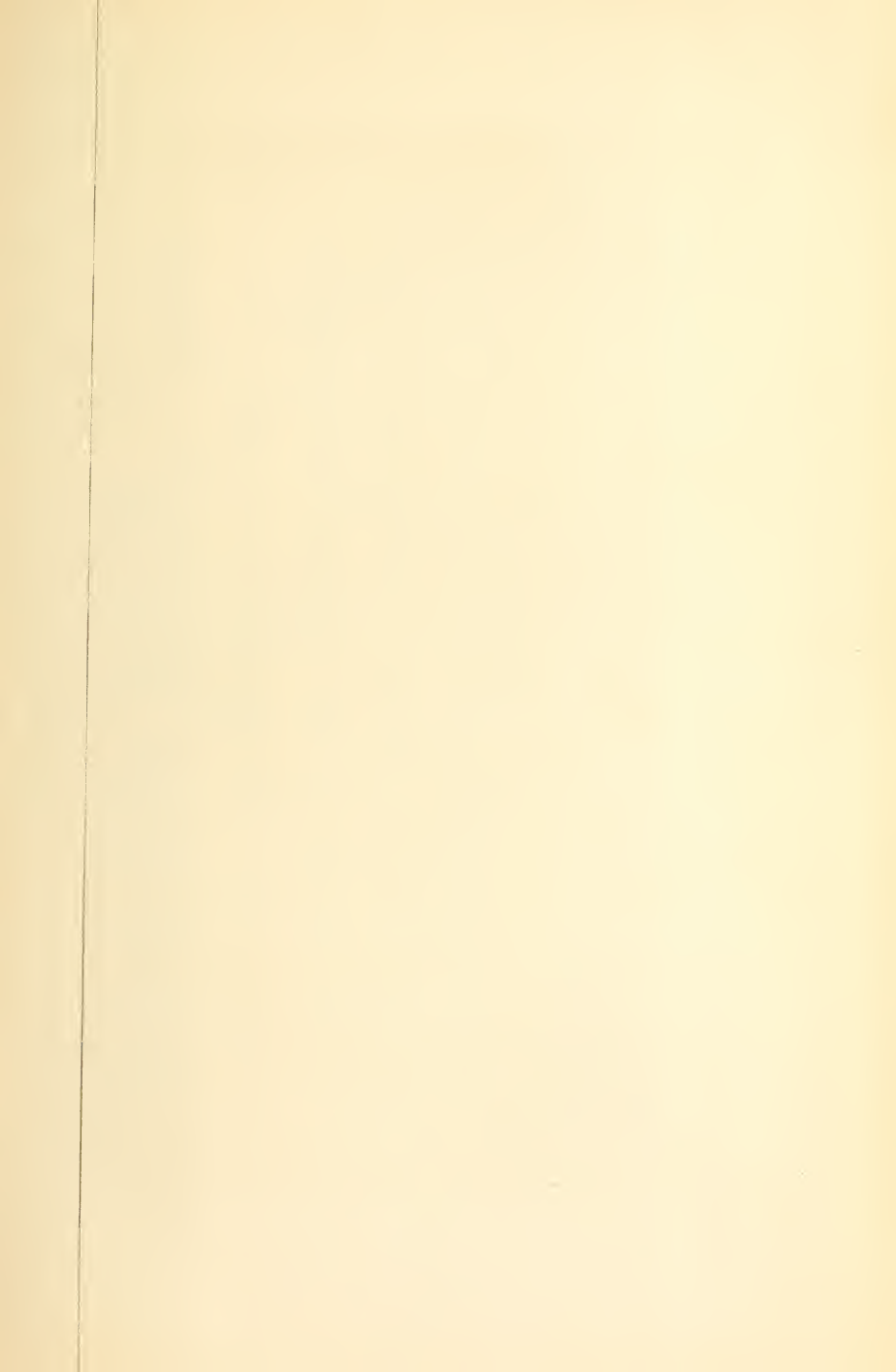
<sup>2</sup> A farm house in Huthersall still bearing the same name.



- 1598-9 January 31, Margaret, ye wyfe of James Jackson.  
 february 12, The wyfe of Ric. Schofield.  
           22, Eliz. the wyfe of John Wilson.  
 Marche 6, The.....wyfe of John Threlfall.
- 1599 April 17, Edmund.....and Rafe Radcliffe (?)  
           Robt Seede of.....lane  
 June 27, Elline Cottame ye daughter.  
           30, Elizabeth Dewhurst.  
           John Dewhurst.  
           31, Edward Dillworth.  
 July 22, John.....y<sup>t</sup> was killed in ye .....ete.  
 November 17,                               wyfe of Ellis Dudill (?)  
 December 2, John Tipping of Alston.
- 1600 April—                               ye daughter of John.....of Alston.  
 April 8, the wife of Robt Hothersall.  
         —Ellen Willesey ye daughter of Robt. Willesey of Alston  
         9, Thomas Eccles.....  
         15 (?).....Kyke.....(?) ye son of John  
 Maye 30, John H.....  
 June 3, Grace Horne, ye daughter of Willm Horne  
         4, Frances Osboldestone the son of Mr. Osboldestone, of Osboldeston.  
         20,.....Walton, and.....  
 June 23, John Hothersall of Alston-lane.  
 Julye.....Holte the son of Thomas Holte.  
         10, Robt.....al as Sherbourn, bare  
 Auguste 22, Willm Dolphin the son of John Dolphin.  
 August 30, Richd Cottam, a young man.  
 October 4,.....the son of Thomas S.....  
         22,                               and Elline                               both of the  
   p'ish of Blackburne.
- 1600-1 January 1, Ellis Sowerbutts.  
         22, Robt. Hothersall.  
           Willm. Cottam                               of Edmund Cottam.
- 1601 January 29, John the son of John Hothersall of Alston Lane.  
 februarye 4, the layte wife of Ric. Hesmondhaugh.  
 februarye 10, Eliz Talbot of Ribchester.  
 Marche 2, the wife of Willm Walmysleye.  
         29, wife of Robt Hill.  
 April 4, a childe of James.....  
         a childe of John (?) Greenewoode of.....  
 Maye 3, Margt the wife of Edmund Woode.  
         10, Henry Wilkinson of Alston.  
 June 5, Elline Threlfall in p'ell (?)  
         14, the layte wife of Mr. Thomas Osboldeston.  
 Julye 16, The wyfe of Rich Hacking out of Osboldeston.  
 Auguste 9, Thomas Walker.  
 November 12, .....wyfe of James Jackson.  
 December 2, a child of Henry Cutler.  
         4, another chyld of the said Cutler.

- 1602 April 4, The layte wyfe of Christopher Seede.  
 June 21, The wyfe of Mr Henry Townley of Dutton, gent.
- 1608 April 6, John Bonki from Osbostonn; and the late wyff of John Tomlinson.  
 10, Robert Hothersall.  
 12, The layt wyff of William Coupe.  
 May 3, John Dewhourste.  
 12, Ric. Ribchester.  
 14, A chylde of Henry Newsome.  
 14, George Waltonn.  
 25, Jenett Hearste.
- 1609 June 22, The layt wyfe of Ric. Norcrosse.  
 Aug. 20, Ellis Dudell of Alston.
- 1616 ..... .. Mary Sherburne of Ribchester, daughter of Ric. Sherburne.
- 1617 June 2, Robert Burley de frances Green.  
 Aug. 13, Robert Smalley, baliffe.
- 1618 Jan. 26, Thomas Harrison de ffaunay.  
 May 4, James Dewhurst from Dewhurst houses.  
 31, Elizabeth, ye daughter of Mr. George Houghton.  
 Sep. 13, Mr Richard Towneley, gentleman, in Dutton.  
 Nov. 24, Robte Seed de Greenmyrlane.  
 Nov. 29, ffrancis Hailhurst de Carlinghurst.
- 1619 Jan. 17, Lawrence Cottam de high howse.  
 Mar. 15, Mr John Dewhurst de boyes house.  
 Dec. 12, The wife of Edward Houghton de Smithbothom.
- 1620 Jan. 18, A child of Mr Thomas Hothersall, gent.  
 Mar. 8, John Dewhurst, son of Mr William Dewhurst.
- 1621 May 12, 2 children of Nicholas Boulton from Sallsbery hall.  
 June 21, Mr Edward Houghton de Smythbotham.  
 July 6, Mr William Dewhurst de boyes house.  
 Oct. 8, A child of Mr Thomas Hothersall.
- 1622 May 7, Thomas Barker from Sir John Talbot's.
- 1623 Feb. 9, John Roddes in Ribchester.  
 April -- Uppon the first and third and fourth of this moneth (month) there was three chyl dren of John Baley that was bastards.  
 May 10, John Braggess that was supposed to [have] been killed.  
 June 25, Andrew Hindley, son of Christopher Hindley, vicar de Ribchester.  
 July 1, Robert Ashe de Clowe Banke.  
 Aug. 14, Henry Norcrosse, viccar de Ribchester.<sup>1</sup>  
 31, The wife of Edward Houghton de Smithbothom.  
 Sep. 3, Robte Dewhurst in Allston, gentleman.  
 17, The sonne of John Richardson, packeman.  
 Oct. 13, The wife of John Gregson de Cherie yeat.  
 Dec. 5, The wife of Arthur Sowerbutts, Clarke.
- 1624 Jan. 13, Edmond Haihurst, de Moore heyshouse.  
 Mar. 20, Edward Allston that was drowned.

<sup>1</sup> The predecessor of Vicar Hindley.



CCi a th<sup>o</sup> of Noble Smaley 1602  
 CCiii M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Hofersall: t<sup>h</sup>o  
 — wife of M<sup>r</sup> John Hofersall  
 — of Hofersall Hall —  
 CCvii John Norcross in Arson  
 — November: 1626 —  
 CCviii Anne<sup>de</sup> Dolehim: in this town  
 — December: 1626 —  
 CCix a th<sup>o</sup> of John Higginson —  
 CCxiii The wife of Henry Wydoson: <sup>l</sup>  
 — — — — — January: 1627 — —

CCxiii The wife of Noble Birby of frant<sup>o</sup> t<sup>h</sup>o  
 CCv a th<sup>o</sup> of Richard Cromb<sup>o</sup> Helms  
 in the Fifth of Stood y<sup>o</sup> —

- Apr. 5, William Tiping de Longridge chapell.  
 24, The wife of Robert Bayley, maultman.  
 July 9, William Wanne in Dilworth.  
 1625 Mar. 30, A poore traveler, whose collar was black.  
 Apr. 2, A yong youth who was a traveler.  
 1626 Feb. 14, Thomas Osbaldeston, gentleman.  
 26, A poore man south of Alston, which was borne one a barrowe.  
 Mar. 26, A childe of William Tompson ffisher.  
 June 14, The wife of Henry Norcrosse.  
 Aug. 15, Two children of William Dewhurst that was drowned.  
 Oct. 16, A childe of Hiram Kellet from ye bought.<sup>1</sup>  
 23, Mtss Mary Hothersall, the wife of Mr. John Hothersall, of Hothersall hall.  
 1627 Jan. 29, A child of Richard Crombleholme in the p'sh of Steed, gen.  
 Aug. 8, Mts Tilsley from Dewhurst houses.  
 1628 Jan. 20, Robte Willasie in Allston.  
 Dec. 31, A child of Mr John Osbaldeston in Ribchester.  
 1629 Feb. 1, Mr Cuthbert Osbaldeston.  
 21, The wife of John Pemberton, which hanged herselfe.  
 28, Richard Carter that was murdered.  
 Mar. 27, Elline Walker de Longridge chappell.  
 1630 Mar. 21, a poore man commonly called Little Richard.  
 1633 Apr. 18, John Ratcliffe—great John.  
 [No entries of burials occur from 1635 to 1652.]  
 1652 Oct. Jane, the wife of Mr. John Osboldeston in Ribchester.  
 1654 May 20, Anne, the daughter of Mr. William Dewhurst.  
 1655 Jan. 27, A chyld of Edmund Naden in Hothersall, gent.  
 Feb. 26, Raph Radcliffe in Dillworth.  
 1657 June 1, The wife of Mr. Thomas Hothersall of Hothersall hall.  
 1659 Aug. 29, 2 children of Thomas Hille in Dillworth, being murdered.  
 1660 Nov. 12, William Hothersall in Hothersall, which was drowned.  
 1662 Mar. 29, Robert Whaley of Longridge fell.  
 Sep. 4, Old Doll, called widdow Knowles of Ribchester.  
 1667 Mar. 17, Rich. Hayhurst, aged 86 yeeres.  
 1669 June 4, ye wife of Mr. Henry Townley.  
 Sep. 11, John Rudd the murtherer.  
 1672 Oct. 3, Alice, ye wife of Mr. Richard Sherburne of Buckley.  
 1678 Jan. 10, ye wife of Mr. Stephenson in Ribchester.  
 Aug. 5, Richard Riden in Dutton, Buried in woolen.  
 1680 Mar. 27, William Keay, a wandering beggar.  
 Dec. 20, Lawrence Metcalfe of this towne, a prentice.  
 1681 Jan. 8, Mr. William Clayton, capt'n of this towne.  
 1682 Sep. 11, John, ye son of George Ogden, vicar, then buried.  
 1685 May 11, Alice, ye daughter of John Westby of Alston, gent.  
 1686 Jan. 18, Alice, ye daughter of Tho. Hothersall, Esq.  
 1688 July 16, The wife of Judge Hothersall, of Hothersall.  
 1690 Dec. 1, Mr. William ffelgate, Curat.

<sup>1</sup> A farm in Alston now called "The Boot."



- 1691 July 5, Elizabeth, wife of Sherborne Crombleholme of ye parish of Stid.  
13, George, son of Mr. John Wesby.
- 1695 Dec. 6, James Stanphord, Esqr at Stid.
- 1696 Mar. 20, Robt. Read, apprentice de Stid.  
Dec. 19, Arthur Dewhurst, cleark de Rib.
- 1697 Mar. 29, Edward Houghton de Stid.  
June 2, Y<sup>n</sup> was found a childe in a pound, in Huthersal neare franscis green, with its mouth stopt full of rags, supposed to be ye childe of Anne Ratcliffe, widow.  
July 21, John Huthersal de Ribch.
- 1698 Nov. 15, Edmond Naden de Huthersall.
- 1699 Jan. 2, Richard Dewhurst de boteman was drowned.  
June 13, Wm. Carter, parish clark de Ribchester.  
Oct. 21, Ye widow of Henry Ribchester de Dutton, and her son John, both laid in one grave.
- 1700 Feb. 9, An old woman from hills in Dillworth.  
Aug. 12, George, ye son of Mr Tho. Huthersall de Huth., Esq.  
Sep. 23, Abraham Towneley de Dutton.
- 1701 Mar. 3, Jenet, ye wife of Mr Tho. Huthersall de Huth., Esq.  
Apr. 19, Henry Dewhurst de new bridge end.  
May 14, Jenet Sourbutts from ye almshouse in Mitton.
- 1702 Jan. 12, Rich. Parkinson in Longridge chapel.  
Feb. 12, Edward, ye son of Sherburn Crumbholm at Stid.  
Mar. 13, Rich. Parkinson ye parish cleark de Ribch.
- 1704 Jan. 28, George Sharples de Samlsbery, dround at Buckley.
- 1705 July 18, James Seed de Dillworth, musishon [musician] per overseer, aged 66.
- 1706 Feb. 1, Abraham, son of Henry Townley de Dutton aged 24 days.  
July 14, Anne, ye daughter of John Dewhurst de Clayton in ye dale—ye father is fled for debt.
- 1710 Dec. 2, Jon. Dewhurst, alias blind fletcher.
- 1711 Apr. 5, Anne Carter, widow, from Blue Bell Inn, Alston.  
July 27, Tho. Singleton, an old beggar.
- 1712 Feb. 14, Widow Naden de Huthersall, in church.  
June 26, Clayton Dewhurst de Ribchester, gent<sup>n</sup>.
- 1713 Mar. 25, John, son of Tho. Johnson, vicar de Ribchester.  
May 13, The illegite child of Grace Eccles de Ribchester, still-born.  
Nov. 10, Hannah, daughter of Tho. Johnson, vicar de Rib.
- 1714 July 6, Anne, daughter of Henry Townley de Dutton, gent.  
20, Richard Dewhurst de Dewhurst houses.
- 1715 Jan. 31, Tho. Naden de Huthersall, clergiman, in church.  
May 20, Thomas, son of Thomas Johnson, vicar de Ribch.
- 1716 Apr. 8, Edward Seed de loftshaw.  
May 13, Ellis Hayhurst de Ribchester, Sextone.  
May 27, Anne Felgate de Alston, infant.  
Oct. 3, Jon. Winckley de Alston, executed for Treason.  
Tho. Shuttleworth de Alston, executed for Treason, in ch.
- 1718 May 19, Wenifrid, wife of Richd. Sherbourn, gent, at Stid.

- 1719 Joseph, ye son of Jeremiah Page, strangled himself Aug.  
ye 9th att night.
- 1720 Jan. 18, Thomas Huthersall de Huthersall, Esq., buried at Ribchester.  
Apr. 15, Alice, daughter of Rich. Cottam, Inkeeper de Ribchester.  
Aug. 17, Mary, wife of Jon. Lee, disbanded soldier, buried from  
Huthersall.  
Oct. 19, Jon. Ward de Ribch., gent, buried in ch.
- 1721 Jan. 10, Arthur, son of Arthur Wallton de Alston, schoolmaster.  
May 25, Mary, daughter of Willm. Charnley, Clerk, Curate of  
Broughton, buried at Ribchester.  
Oct. 18, Tho., son of Rich. T'raford de Ribch.
- 1722 Mar. 15, Jon, son of widow Kirk, a Northumberland pauper.  
Oct. 9, A still-born child of Mr. Winstanley de Alston.
- 1723 Dec. 8, Ellen, wife of James Bushell, Inkeeper de Alston.
- 1726 Jan. 19, Jane, daughter of Alixander Dewhurst, bricklayer de Man-  
chester.  
Dec. 9, Elizabeth, wife of John Clarkson, Inkeeper de Alston.
- 1730 May 12, Jon. Pepper, discharged officer of Excise.<sup>1</sup>  
Sep. 4, Jon. Bolton, Inkeeper de Ribchester.  
Oct. 22, William Hothersall, Batchelor de Alston, in ch.
- 1731 Feb. 9, Jane, wife of Rich. Shuttleworth, Inkeeper de Alston.  
May 17, William Goner, Sextone de Ribchester.  
22, Henry Townley de Dutton, Esq., in ch.
- 1732 May 24, Alice Worthington, widow, pauper from ye hospitall at Stide.<sup>2</sup>
- 1733 Mar. 9, Lawrence Cottam, gent., de Dillworth.  
Sep. 10, Mary, daughter of Richard Dickson, Clerk, Curet of Long-  
ridge.  
Dec. 21, Ellen, daughter of Rich. Throop, Drawing Mr. from Alston.
- 1734 Apr. 12, Tho. Duckworth, flaxman de Alston.  
May 12, Margret, daughter of Richard Dixon, Clerk, Curet of Long-  
ridge.
- 1736 Jan. 16, William Walker, a Cavalier, aged 122, de Alston.<sup>3</sup>  
Nov. 11, Thomas, son of Thomas Carter, ffarmer de Catrell [Catterall],  
Garstang.
- 1738 Sep. 25, Thomas Johnson, Viccar of Ribchester.
- 1739 Dec. 13, John Winder, Atorney at law from Lovley, p'sh of Black-  
burn.
- 1740 Apr. 12, Walter Vaviser, a Reputed Romish Preist at Stid.
- 1741 Oct. 25, William Brewer, a Reputed Romish Preist, in ch.
- 1743 Apr. 12, Richard Dixon, Curet of Longridge.  
June 6, Charles Ingleby, gent. from Sholey.  
Sep. 13, Anne, wife of John Knock, of Preston, gent.
- 1744 Mar. 26, Richard Wahnsley, gent, from Showley in p'sh of Black-  
burn, born [buried?] at Stid.

<sup>1</sup> In *Walken's Diary* (p. 114) is the following reference to this event: "(1730) April 28. This afternoon son Thomas.....brought account that Mr. Pepper, our late Exciseman, being ejected out of his said office for default, had this morning cut his own

throat at his dwelling house, at Ribchester, but my love said he was not dead; a surgeon from Blackburn had stopped the wound."

<sup>2</sup> Stydd almshouses.

<sup>3</sup> See chap. xi.

- June 27, John Parkinson of Alston, gent.  
 1745 Apr. 20, Richard Mawdsley, Curret.  
 Sep. 1, Henry Ward, Viccar of Margreting [Margaretting] in Essex.  
 1746 June 15, Jane, daughter of Henry Ward, late Viccar of Margreting  
           in Essex, from Preston.  
 Oct. 17, William Norcross, yeoman, drowned in a pit ner home.  
 Dec. 11, James Dewhurst, Miler of Stonihurst, Kiled by the Milstone.  
 1749 May 11, Richard Townley, a poor gent. batchelor belonging to  
           Dutton.  
 1750 Jan. 2, George Entwistle, a disbanded soldier.  
 1753 Nov. 12, Josiah Peele, Clerk of this Parish.  
 1754 Oct. 18, John, son of Mr Fisher, Curate of Ribchester.  
 1755 Apr. 24, Thos. Walmsley, Esq., from Sholey, att Stid.  
 1756 Dec. 7, Dorothy Peel, widdow of this town.  
 1758 July 20, Ann, daughter of Tempast Dewhurst, disbanded soljder.  
 Oct. 11, Richard Shuttleworth of Alston, Inkeeper.  
 1759 July 7, Edmd. Winder, gent, from Sailsbury.  
 1761 Mar. 19, Rich<sup>d</sup> Bilsborough of Alston, yeoman.  
 Aug. 11, Elizabeth, widdow of Mr Johnson late Vicar of Ribchester.  
 Dec. 23, Cuthbert Singleton of the Hills within Dilworth, yeoman.  
 1762 July 10, John Seed of Pleasington, schoolmaster.  
 1763 Jan. 1, Robt. Ratcliff of Alston, yeoman.  
 Aug. 7, Thomas Bilsborough, clerk of Longridge chapel.  
 1766 Jan. 8, Mr Richard Dewhurst, Batchelor from Manchester.  
 1773 June 2, Mrs. E. Walmsley, an old gentlewoman, Ribchester.  
 1775 Aug. 31, Willm. Singleton, Pensioner, Alston.  
 Dec. 27, Francis Peter, Esqr., Sholey, a Romish Bis'p.  
 1776 Jan. 7, Jno. Ingham, Huntsman, Dutton.  
 Mar. 23, Mr. Edward Entwistle, Ribchester.  
 May 7, Thos. Walmsley, Ribchester, the Shooter.  
 Sep. 22, John Carter, Schoolmaster, Dutton.  
 1777 18, Mr. Townley Entwistle, Haslingden.  
 1780 Jan. 8, Mrs. Hodgson, a widow gentlewoman, Sholey.  
 1782 Feb. 15, Catherine Sherburne, widow, Dutton.  
 1785 Jan. 4, Alice Walmsley, Sholey.  
 1789 July 31, Thomas, son of James Entwistle, Blackburn parish, drowned  
           in river Winburne accidentally.  
 1792 Dec. 31, John Darwen, Ribchester.  
 1793 June 4, John Singleton, Parish Clerk, Ribchester.  
 1794 Aug. 10, Richard Gregson, Surgeon, Ribchester.  
 1796 Mar. 11, Ann, wife of the Revd. Mr Southward, Goosnargh.  
 1806 Mar. 4, Richard, son of the Revd. Robert Parkinson, of Alston, aged  
           19 years.<sup>4</sup>  
 July 28, John, son of Rev. Robert Parkinson, of Alston.<sup>4</sup>  
 1807 May 8, Jenet, wife of Rev. Robert Parkinson, clerk.<sup>4</sup>  
 1808 July 23, William, son of William Bourne, of Dilworth.  
 Dec. 16, Francis Martin, a native of Bohemia.  
 1809 July 17, Thomas Kay, farmer of Stidd Hall, interred in Stidd  
           Church.  
 ..... 21, Elizabeth, wife of William Patchet, surgeon of Ribchester.  
 1812 June 19, John Heskin, of Alston, killed by lightuing.

<sup>4</sup> Buried at Longridge.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## Monuments and Inscriptions.



THE monuments within the church are few and of no great antiquity. The date "1527," cut on one of the beams of the roof in the nave, and the inscription "C. H., 1636," on the pulpit have already been mentioned.<sup>1</sup> Probably the oldest tombstone was a solid block of stone in the chancel, which bore the arms of the Hoghtons; and a stag's head cabossed, and a chevron between three lozenges.<sup>2</sup>

"In the church window at Ribchester: *Johannis Talbot et Isabelle uxoris sui*. She hath 3 daughters kneeling by her. The rest of the superscription in Latin is broken downe oute of window. In the same church window: Thomas Lennox et Elizabeth *uxor ejus*. The arms of Lennox stand in y<sup>e</sup> same window. The feild thereof is a chevron or. with 2 roses over y<sup>e</sup> same, on y<sup>e</sup> chefe or. a lion passant under y<sup>e</sup> chevron."<sup>3</sup>

Within the Dutton choir on the north side of the church, is an old tombstone of Pre-Reformation date, bearing the insignia of knighthood, with the following inscription (cut at a much later date):—

Here lyeth the body of EDWARD,  
The son of Thomas Dewhurst, 1689.

The burial of this appropriator is thus recorded in the Register: "1689-(90) Jan. y<sup>e</sup> 6th, Edward, the son of Thomas Dewhurst de Dutton." Close to the stone just mentioned is the tombstone of William Fox and Nancy his wife, dated 1791 and 1801.

On the opposite side of the church within the Hoghton choir are two stained glass memorial windows; one to Joseph Fenton, Esq., of Bamford Hall, lord of the manors of Ribchester, Dutton,

<sup>1</sup> Erroneously stated by Fishwick to be "at Stydd Chapel"—*Cheth. Soc.* (New Series), viii., 46.

<sup>2</sup> This stone, mentioned as being "in the chancel," in 1877, by the late Mr. Dobson (*Rambles by the Ribble*, II., 108, is nowhere visible now; nor

can it be traced. Fastened to the south chancel wall is a Knight-Templar's tombstone, which was discovered in 1882 beneath the chancel flags.

<sup>3</sup> *Whit. Whalley*, ii., 459.

and Bailey, who died in 1840; and the other to his son, John Fenton, Esq., of Grimble Hall, M.P., lord of the manors, who died in 1883. This choir has a screen of carved oak, of early Gothic design, which has suffered from neglect.

On the north-east nave wall is a marble tablet bearing the following inscription :—

To the memory  
of the  
REV. BOULBY THOMAS HASLEWOOD, B.A.,  
Forty-seven years Vicar and Rector  
Of this Parish,  
Who entered into his rest  
On the 28th day of May, A.D. 1876,  
Learned, Eloquent,  
A faithful and true Pastor.  
He was endeared  
To the hearts of his Flock  
As a living epistle of Christ.  
In all things adorning the Doctrine of  
God his Saviour.  
This Tablet is erected  
By his Parishioners and Friends.

On the south-east nave wall is a marble tablet with the following inscription :—

I.H.S.  
In memory of  
JONATHAN OPENSHAW,  
Of Hothersall,  
Fifth son of  
James Openshaw,  
Of Redivals, in this County,  
And MARGARET, eldest daughter of  
James Harrison,  
Of Lowfields, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmoreland,  
Born, May 7th, 1805 : Died, Feb. 25th, 1882.

On the north chancel wall is a brass bearing this inscription :—

To the glory of God.  
In loving memory of the REV. FREDERICK EUGENE PERRIN, M.A.,  
Rector of this parish from 1876 to 1885, A.D.,  
Born December 24th, 1822 : Died May 10th, 1885.  
Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness,  
And let Thy Saints sing with joyfulness.

---



This Brass was erected by his flock, to whom  
 He was endeared by his ever self-sacrificing  
 And constant labours of love in fulfilling  
 His office as a faithful and true shepherd of the Church of Christ.

---

This chancel was restored A.D. 1881.

On the south nave wall are two boards—one referring to the enlargement of the church in 1830; the other to Townley charities.

Within what was formerly the Dutton choir is an old oak pew, bearing the following inscription on the door:—

C.  
 R. A.  
 1729.

As interments in the church were customary for a long time, the absence of many stones and inscriptions must be attributed to the neglect or carelessness of the “restorers” of the church from time to time.

The charge for burials within the church as recorded in the books of “the xxiv” was 1s. 0d. The custom of burying in woollen is well-known. The following copy of an affidavit is taken from the church books.

Elizabeth Pemberton, of ye Parish of Ribchester, in ye County of Lancr maketh oath yt William Hothersall, of Alston, gent of ye Parish of Ribchester, afforesaid in ye County of Lancr lately deceased, was not put in wrapped or wound up or buried in any shirt, shift, or srowd made or mingled with flax, hempe, silke, haire, gold or silver or any meteryall but sheepse woll onely. Dated ye 8th day of November, 1679.

Sealed and subscribed by us who were present                      The mark of  
 and wittnessed to ye swearing of ye aforesaid                      Elizabeth Pemberton.  
 Affidavit.                      Jure apud Preston,

Thomas Hothersall,

Com. Lancr November 1679,  
 Tho: Winckley, Maire.

I, Thomas Braddill, Esqre one of his Maies Justice of ye peace and Quorum for ye sd County, doe hereby certifye yt ye sd . . . came before ye daye and year abovesd and made affidavit as above specified, according to a late Act of Parliament entitled an Act for burying in woolen.

Declarations as above were made (1678-1681) before Ralph Livesay, Thomas Rigby, Thomas Bradyll, Thomas Parker, L. Lawrence Wall (Major, Preston), C. Greenfield, M.E.C.A.; Tho: Winckley (Maire, Preston), Ch. Wilkinson, Tho: Hodgkinson

(Majore de Preston), James Butterworth, Rich. White, Vicar de Chipping; Seth Bushell, Vicar de Preston; John Harrison, Curate de Woodplumpton.

The principal object of interest in the churchyard is the old sun-dial. It is on the south side of the church, is approached by six steps, and is evidently of great antiquity judging from the stonework. The dial plate is very much worn, and apparently had no inscription. Close to the south-western entrance is the oldest tombstone in the churchyard. It bears the date 1696, and the following inscription, fast wearing away, in raised letters:—

Here turn thine eye, thou gay unthinking youth  
And learn from me this great important truth,  
That neither gold, nor friend, nor youth can save,  
Nor ransom thee from the all devouring grave.

There are in fact many stones bearing quaint epitaphs to be seen in the churchyard. One of these I reproduce:—

Here lieth the body of THOMAS ALSTON, of Ribchester,  
Who departed this life, June 4th, 1799, aged 80 years.  
Also of ELIZABETH, his wife, who died Oct. 28th, 1801,  
Aged 83 years.

Fret not, my friend, at our decease,  
Hope that Christ hath made our peace,  
And at His coming hope to have  
A joyful rising from the grave.

In the northern corner of the churchyard is an upright stone with the following inscription:—

BOULBY THOMAS HASLEWOOD, B.A.,  
47 years Vicar of Ribchester,  
Born Jan. 30, 1796: Died May 28, 1876.  
Also of MARGARET, his wife,  
Born July 14, 1798: Died Feb. 21, 1854.  
Also of their children

ELIZABETH BOULBY, JOHN, JOHN BISS OGDEN,  
CATHERINE, and SAMUEL DICKENS.

Adjoining is an upright headstone with the following:—

With Christ which is far better.  
CLARISSA HASLEWOOD, Aug. 2, 1861.

The tombstone of the Pye family, close to the north entrance of the choir, has the following:—

Here lie the remains of  
ANN, wife of Mr. William Pye,  
Who departed this life Dec. 21, 1787,  
In the 56th year of her age.

Likewise JOHN TOWNLEY PYE, his son,  
Departed this life 7th Dec., 1795,  
In the 22nd year of his age.  
Also near this place lieth the remains of  
MR. WILLIAM PYE, of Ribchester,  
Husband and father of the above, who  
Departed this life Sep. 28, 1803,  
In the 70th year of his age.  
Here lieth the remains of JOHN PYE,  
Who died 24th Oct., 1763,  
Aged 78 years.

In 1870 it was decided to close the old burial ground, except in special cases; the churchyard having been considerably enlarged through the generosity of the late Mr. Jonathan Openshaw, of Hothersall Hall.

## CHAPTER IX.

## Stydd Catholic Chapel.



N times of persecution there were missionaries at Hothersall, Bailey, Chaighley, Stonyhurst, Salesbury New, and Showley Halls, and at other residences of the Catholic gentry in this neighbourhood, who attended to the spiritual wants of Ribchester. But during the latter half of the last century it was served by the chaplains at Showley, the seat of the Walmsleys. Father Walter Vavasour, who was at Bailey Hall at various times from 1700-40, was frequently at Hothersall Hall; several entries of baptisms performed by him are entered in the Parish Church registers. He was buried at Stydd Church, "1740, April 12, Walter Vaviser, a Reputed Romish Priest, at Stid" (parish church register). The Rt. Rev. Bishop Francis Petre, Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District, resided principally at Showley from 1752 until his death, Dec. 24, 1775, aged 84, and was buried in the church of Stydd (see chap. iii.) The entry in the parish register recording Bishop Petre's burial is curious: "1775, Dec. 27, Francis Peter, Esq., Showley, a Romish Bis'p." In 1761, the Rev. William Fisher came from the English College at Lisbon, and was appointed missionary at Showley.<sup>1</sup>

Towards the close of the century the Walmsleys resided chiefly in Essex, and Showley Hall was tenanted by a farmer. Hence in 1789 Fr. Fisher erected a chapel (dedicated to S.S. Peter and Paul) on a small estate, formerly belonging to the Walmsleys, known as Stydd Lodge. Old age and infirmity compelled Fr. Fisher to relinquish the active duties of the mission in 1805, but he continued to reside at Stydd until his death, Nov. 1, 1813, aged 84. Fr. Fisher, it may be added, was in Lisbon at the time of the great earthquake, 1755.

<sup>1</sup> For nearly the whole of the information contained in this chapter I am

indebted to Mr. Joseph Gillow, Bowdon.

## REV. JAMES WAGSTAFFE.

Fr. Wagstaffe came to Stydd in 1805. He was ordained priest at the English College at Lisbon, May 20, 1784. From the time of his arrival in England, 1790, until his appointment at Stydd, he was chaplain to the Traffords at Croston Hall. He remained at Stydd for nearly forty years, till his retirement to Kirkham in 1844, where he died May 3, 1847, aged 84, and was interred at the Willows.

## REV. ROGER GLASSBROOK.

Fr. Glassbrook took charge of the mission in Sept., 1844. He was son of Mr. Edward Glassbrook, of Wigan, and after studying at the English College at Lisbon was transferred to Ushaw College, where he was ordained priest. In 1837 he was priest at Esh Laude, Durham, where he remained till the spring of 1840. He was then transferred to St. Patrick's, Livesey-street, Manchester, and in 1841 to Bollington, Cheshire. In the following year he took charge of Singleton, in the Fylde, and in Sept., 1844, as we have said, came to Stydd, where he passed the remainder of his days, and died Sept. 10, 1862. In March of the previous year the state of his health obliged him to relinquish missionary duty. He was brother to Dom Edward Glassbrook, O.S.B., who died June 12, 1883, aged 77.<sup>1</sup> Fr. Glassbrook was "a character," and many amusing stories are still told of him. He was highly respected by all denominations in the neighbourhood of Ribchester.

## REV. HENRY FRANCIS BROWNE.

Fr. Browne came to Stydd in March, 1861, though he was not formally appointed till after the death of Mr. Glassbrook. Born Jan. 4, 1824, Fr. Browne was the third son of Mr. Edward Browne, of Preston and Blackburn, and his wife, Alice, daughter of Mr. John Greenhalgh, of Blackburn, and sister to the Very Rev. Henry Canon Greenhalgh, of Wild Bank. He made his studies at the English College at Lisbon, and was ordained priest at St. Nicholas' pro-Cathedral, Liverpool, in 1849. He was then appointed curate at St. Anthony's, Liverpool, but later in the same year was transferred to St. Mary's, Mulberry-street, Manchester. In 1855 he presided over the Catholic College Institute in Grosvenor-street,

<sup>1</sup> See Gillow's *Bib. Dict. of the Eng. Catholics*, ii., 495.



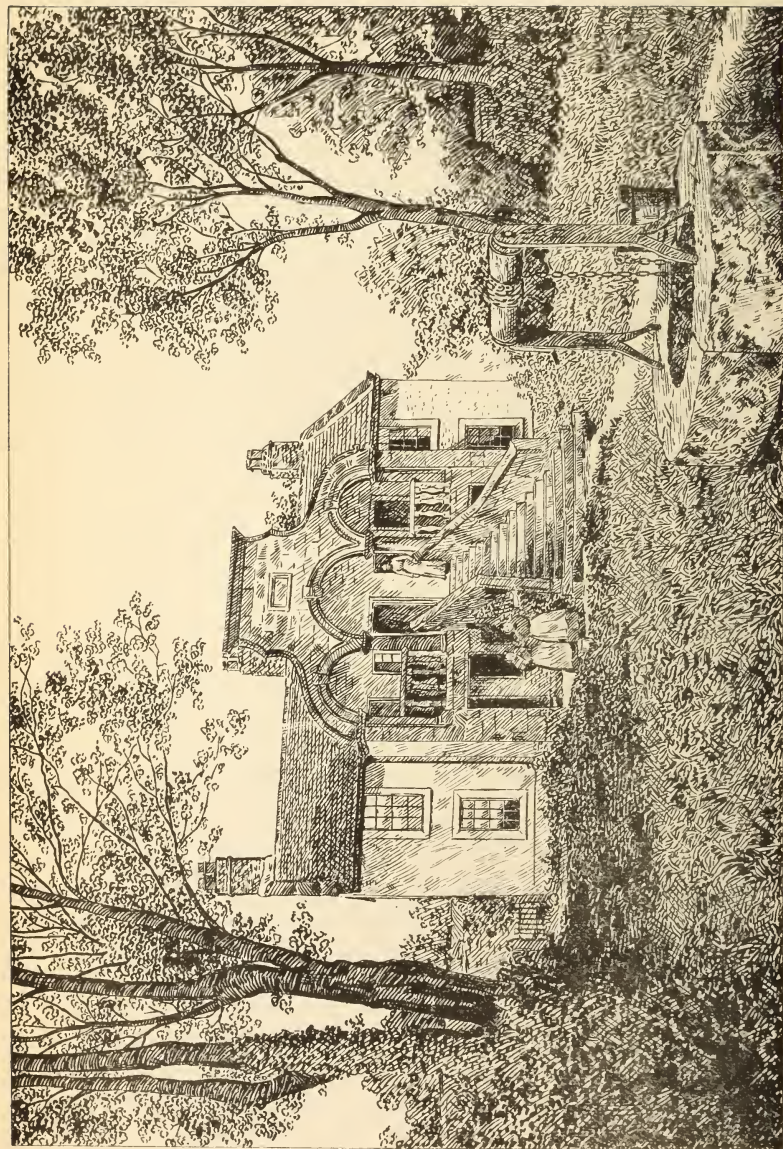
Manchester, and subsequently took charge of the mission of Levenshulme. Thence he came to Stydd Lodge. Towards the close of his missionary career in Ribchester, Fr. Browne initiated the movement for the establishment of a separate mission in Longridge. He laboured hard until the erection of a school-chapel was commenced, and then, about the end of 1867, was removed to St. Edmond's, Bolton. In 1880 he was transferred to the church of S.S. Peter and Paul in the same town, and during the year was called upon to preside over the Deanery. Five years later he retired to Southport on account of ill-health, and there died after a long and painful illness, Oct. 10, 1886, aged 62.

Dean Browne had five brothers, all of them priests, educated like himself at the English College at Lisbon, and subsequently distinguished dignitaries in the dioceses of Shrewsbury, Beverley, Hexham, Portsmouth, and Nottingham.

REV. SETH HENRY CLARKSON.

Fr. Clarkson succeeded Fr. Browne for a prief period in 1867. He came of an ancient Catholic family long settled in Grimsargh, Whittingham, and Goosnargh, now represented by Mr. J. F. Clarkson, of Fernyhalgh. Father Seth, as he was often called, was born at Biggleswade, in Bedfordshire, whither his father, Mr. Seth Clarkson, had removed from Grimsargh. On his father's death in 1835 his only son Seth was brought up as a Presbyterian in Scotland. But, his mother dying some years after, the boy was brought by his relatives to Alston. Dean Gillow, of Fernyhalgh, instructed him in the faith, and received him into the Church, and shortly afterwards, being very much pleased with his promising character, sent him to Ushaw College. After some years he proceeded to the English College at Rome, and returned to England to be ordained priest by Bishop Turner at Salford Cathedral, Dec, 19, 1857. His first appointment was St. Chad's, Manchester, where he remained till the charge of the new mission at Longridge was given him in 1867. Pending preparations for a residence, however, he served the mission at Stydd until the arrival of Canon Rimmer in Jan., 1868. In 1869 Fr. Clarkson became chaplain to the Catholic inmates of Strangeways Prison, Manchester, and in 1873 succeeded Canon Benoit as administrator of St. John's Cathedral, Salford. His strength, however, was not equal to the task; so in 1874 he began a new mission at Withington. Here





J. Miller, Lith. F. & S. 1860.

STYDD ALMS HOUSES.

he died, April 11, 1880, aged 49. Several noteworthy ecclesiastics, Secular, Benedictine, and Dominican, belonged to this family.

VERY REV. JOHN CANON RIMMER.

The next resident priest at Stydd was Canon Rimmer, who arrived in Jan., 1868. He remained in charge till Jan., 1872, when he was transferred to Burnley, where he is still missionary rector.

REV. MICHAEL BYRNE.

Fr. Byrne succeeded Canon Rimmer, and remained at Stydd until July 1880, when he was followed by

REV. THOMAS MARTIN.

Fr. Martin, who latterly suffered much from illness, stayed at Stydd until his death, March 15, 1889. He was buried at Stydd, the Bishop of Salford being present at the funeral service. Fr. Martin was born at Brookville, co. Meath, Dec. 26, 1829; and after studying at St. Finian's College, Navan, and All Hallow's College, Dublin, was ordained priest June 29, 1854. He served on the mission in Haslingden from 1854 until his appointment to Stydd.

REV. HENRY NEWTON.

(Present Priest.)

The chapel, pleasantly situated about half-a-mile from Ribchester, is a plain substantial building, and will seat about 350 people. There is a cemetery adjoining. Close to the chapel is the school.

A minute's walk from the chapel are the alms-houses, of which an illustration fronts this page. They were founded by the Sherburnes in the seventeenth century, and since 1720 have been maintained by the Walmesleys of Showley, to whom the property passed. Four old and infirm women of the Catholic faith now occupy the alms-houses, who receive a monthly allowance in money, with coals once a year, from Mr. Walmesley, through Mr. John Turner, Solicitor, Preston, the trustee of the estate. The priest at Stydd is appointed chaplain.

Bishop Petre's "throne," an old oak chair, was in 1877 at Stydd Lodge, the residence of the priest, but it does not appear to be there now. An ancient sixteenth century triptych, in the possession of Rev. W. Smith, Broughton, formerly belonged to Stydd, and probably served as an altar piece there.



## CHAPTER X.

**The Parish Library and Public Charities.**

## THE PARISH LIBRARY.



HE Parish Church Library was formed in 1684. Bishop Gastrell says: "Anno, 1684. Mr. Hayhurst, Minister of Macclesfield, left all his books (except the Book of Martyrs and his Great Bible) to ye Parish Church of Ribchester."<sup>1</sup> The first references to the library in the Churchwardens' Accounts are

1685.	
Paid to Mr. Kippax and Henery Hayhurst for ffetching the lyberary given by Mr. Bradley Hayhurst and spent about ye same.....	03 07 04
1687.	
Spent when we sett ye work of ye Library .....	00 02 j0
Paid for ye great fflage ffetching, and setting up, and wood belonging to ye same for the Library ... ..	00 07 02
1688.	
For making the hearth in ye Library .....	00 0j 00
1689.	
Paid to John Hacking for a table for ye Library .....	00 07 00
Paid for one chaire for ye Library.....	00 0j 03
Paid to Thomas Newsham for mending the leades betwixt ye Church and Lybrary .....	00 0j 06
1691.	
Item, in placing the bookes in the Lybrary .....	00 0j 06
1693.	
ffor plaistering ye Lybrary, poineting ye windowes, and mending ye slaitte .....	00 j2 00
Paid for two load of coals for ye Lybrary .....	0 j 4
Given to Henry Hayhurst and ye Vickar for a whole dayes worke in placieng ye bookes in ye Library .....	0 0 6

Mr. Chancellor Christie, in his *Old Libraries of Lancashire*, states: "There existed at St. Wilfrid's, Ribchester, up to a few years since a church library. Its fate is one of the most melancholy and most discreditable to its legal custodians of any that we know. It was in existence within the last thirty years, but appears to have totally disappeared shortly before the appointment of the (late) Rector (Rev. F. E. Perrin), in 1876.

<sup>1</sup>*Notitia Cestriensis*.—Chet. Soc., xxii., 471.



"No vestige of these books now remains, with the exception of one volume, which the (late) rector, the Rev. F. E. Perrin, found in the rectory house on taking possession of the benefice in 1876, and which he thinks may have formed part of the library. It is a copy of the *Enaratio in Duas Epistolas Pauli, ad Philippenses et Colossenses Prælecta Georgio Majore Wittebergiæ, 1561.*"<sup>1</sup>

Writing in 1880, Mr. W. E. Axon, says:—"There was a collection at Ribchester, which included some classical books, but not one now remains. When the present President of the Chetham Society (Mr. Crossley) was there, many years ago, there remained a heap of tattered volumes, which were offered to him for the trouble of taking away. He was content however with a copy of *Silius Italicus*, as a memorial of the bygone glories of the place."

At the Annual Meeting of the Chetham Society in 1856, the President, Mr. James Crossley, said:—"He recollected many years ago, when he went to Ribchester, that he found there what had been originally a very good patristic and scholastic library, gradually mouldering away, partly from decay, partly from decomposition. On speaking to the clerk upon the subject, the reply was, 'Why sir, there's nobody here who cares at all about it; and if you would like to have any of the books, you are quite at liberty to take as many as you please.' Being then a young man, his (the chairman's) modesty prevented his taking more than one volume, when he ought to have taken twenty—and that one he still had, and should be ready to return it to the authorities when they could prove their right to receive it. Several years after, he found that the work of destruction had been quite completed; that what had evidently proved too hard for the residents in the neighbourhood—old tomes of St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas—had by the bowels of rats been admirably and thoroughly digested."<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Christie goes on to say that the Rev. G. W. Reynolds informed him that he (Mr. Reynolds) well remembers seeing the books in or before the year 1858, and that they were then packed in boxes—a statement fully corroborated by the Rev. Boulby Haslewood, son of the late Rector of Ribchester. Mr. Boulby

<sup>1</sup>Chet. Soc., New Ser., vii., 104.

<sup>2</sup>*Manchester Guardian*, March, 1856.

Haslewood, in a communication which we have seen, says:—"The books used to be in the chest in the old vestry, and I should have thought they were still in existence, though not in good preservation." And in 1883, Mr. Haslewood returned three volumes which he had "borrowed many years ago," and said he "should think there were 8 or 9 more of one kind or another." Mr. Perrin told Mr. Christie that he had "No papers, wills, writings, or catalogue. No one in the parish seems ever to have seen or heard of the old library."<sup>1</sup>

Early in the present year (1889), when talking over the matter with the Rector of Ribchester, I asked if it was not possible yet to trace some of the long lost books belonging to the "Porch" library. After a brief search Mr. Dickson and myself discovered the following interesting volumes all in a dilapidated and disgraceful condition. After some trouble we were able to catalogue them.

The books are six in number, and include the one mentioned by Chancellor Christie. They are, however, of no great value, so I do not give their titles. One of them is endorsed "Hayhurst's Library."

There are also two fragments of a black letter proclamation relating to land, *temp.* Philip and Mary.

It is certainly a great pity that this old church library should have been allowed to become dispersed. There appears to be no doubt that the responsibility for this wilful negligence rests with the late Rev. B. T. Haslewood, who, during his long incumbency of 47 years, seems to have been an unfaithful custodian of the church property, of which he was the guardian for the time being. (*See* page 157). However regrets are useless—we can only rejoice that a few of the volumes so piously left to his native village by Mr. Hayhurst, should still remain as monuments of his village patriotism.

Some account of the founder of this library is necessary. The Rev. Bradley Hayhurst was the son of Richard Hayhurst, of Dutton. No entry of his baptism occurs in the parish register. Further particulars of the Hayhurst family will be found in chap. xi. His brother Robert was minister of Coley Chapel, near Halifax.

<sup>1</sup> A statement of much too broad a character.

He was admitted a member of Emanuel College, Cambridge, March 31, 1629, and took the degree of B.A. in 1632.<sup>1</sup> In 1648 he signed the *Harmonious Consent* as "preacher of the word at Leigh," and in the Survey of 1650, is described as "a man of good lyffe and conversation, and constant in preaching the word, and in all oth<sup>r</sup> ministerial duties."<sup>2</sup> In 1662, he was ejected under the Act of Uniformity, but afterwards conformed. Calamy describes him as "Mr. Bradley Hayhurst, of Leith."<sup>3</sup> Shortly after his ejection from Leigh, he was appointed Rector of Taxall, where however he did not stay long. In 1671, he became Curate of Macclesfield, staying there until his resignation in 1682.<sup>4</sup> Oliver Heywood states that Mr. Hayhurst came to reside at Macclesfield after his ejection.<sup>5</sup> It is more probable that he stayed at Manchester, as Henry Newcome<sup>6</sup> frequently records visits to and from Mr. Hayhurst. Roger Lowe in his *Diary* states: "March 11, 1668[-9.] Honest Mr. Hayhurst came to towne [Ashton-in-Mackerfield] to see me, and I was glad to see him. Mar. 14, I went to Leigh to bid farewell to poor Mr. Braidley Hayhurst."

Mr. Hayhurst died before June 19, 1685, at Macclesfield,<sup>7</sup> but no entry of his burial occurs in the Macclesfield Registers. His wife Margaret predeceased him, being buried at Prestbury in 1698.

His Will, dated April 11, 1684, we give in full, as we do not think it has ever been printed before.

**"In the Name of God Amey** y<sup>e</sup> Eleventh day of Aprill in the six and thirtieth year of the Raigne of our most Gracious Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defend<sup>r</sup> of the faith &<sup>c</sup> Anno Dni 1684 I Braydley Hayhurst Clerk Minstr<sup>r</sup> at Macclesfield in the County of Chester being aged and weak in body but in sound and pfect memory praised be God for the same and considering with myselfe the certainty of death and the uncertainty

<sup>1</sup>Palatine Note Book, iv., 79.

<sup>2</sup>Record Society, i., 65.

<sup>3</sup>Calamy.

<sup>4</sup>In his will, dated 1684, Mr. Hayhurst describes himself as "Ministr at Macclesfield."

<sup>5</sup>Heywood's *Diaries*, iv., 11.

<sup>6</sup>One extract may be given. "Apr.

22, 1663. Our Mr. Warden and Mr. Illingworth were here y<sup>e</sup> rest of this afternoon. Wee should have done something in our way of meetinge, but Mr. Hayh[ur]st not beinge here it was put off till y<sup>e</sup> next weeke." Cheth. Society, xviii., 179, 180.

<sup>7</sup>Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, ii., 505.

of the time thereof I doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in mann<sup>r</sup> and forme following and first I give and comend my Soule to Almighty God my Creat<sup>r</sup> trusting through the merrits of Jesus Christ my Saviour to receive full pardon and remission of all my sins and my body I comend to the Grave to be decently interred in the usual place where Minst<sup>rs</sup> at Macclesfield have formerly been buried And as to my estate which God hath pleased to bestow upon me I dispose thereof as followeth and first it is my will and mind that all such debts and sumes of money as shall be oweing by me at the time of my deceas together with my funerall expences and the necessary charges of my Execut<sup>rs</sup> be first paid out of my whole estate Item I give and bequeath unto my Brother John Hayhurst the sume of Twenty pounds and all my wearing apparrell and if my said Brother die before the said sume of Twenty pounds be paid him then it is my will and mind that the said sume of Twenty pounds shall be equally devided amongst his children Item I give and bequeath all my bookes except my great book of Martyrs and my great Bible to the Parish Church of Ribchester in the County of Lancaster where I was borne Item I give and bequeath unto the Poore of Macclesfield the sume of Tenn pounds to be employed at interest also the interest thereof to be paid to them yearly for ever according to the discretion of the Mayor and Chappell Ward for the time being and their Successors Item I give and bequeath unto Mary the Wife of Mr Thomas Pickford Minist<sup>r</sup> of Edall in Darbyshire Five pounds which he owes me Item I give and bequeath unto Edward Downes of Shrigley Esq<sup>r</sup> <sup>1</sup> my great Book of Martyrs Item I give and bequeath unto Edward Downes his sone a large silver spoone Item I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Downes Daughter of the said Edward Downes one litle Silver Cup and the Greater Sellar standing in my chamber Item I give and bequeath unto my Kinsman Henry Hayhurst one tenn shillings peice of Gold together with the Purse it is in which I desire him to leave to his heires at his deceas that it may be continued among the Relacons of our family according to the desire of my Mother Item I give and bequeath unto my Cozen Jane Hayhurst and

<sup>1</sup>Edward Downes was a member of a celebrated Cheshire family, a branch

of the Downes, of Downes, who were patrons of Taxal rectory.



Margrett Sikes each of them a Mourning Gowne a Skarfe and a pair of Gloves Item my will and minde is and I desire Mr Thomas Kente to preach my funerall sermon for which I give him Twenty shillings a pair of Mourning Gloves and a Skarfe Item my will is that my three Great Picktures in frames that is Mr Breretons Mrs Dowes and my owne shall be brought to Shrigley to be kept there for ever Item I give and bequeath unto my said Kinsman Henry Hayhurst one Silver Boule Item my will and mind is that my Execut<sup>r</sup> shall enquire for Doct<sup>r</sup> Salmon sometime Fellow of Imanuell Colledg in Cambridge and pay him Seven pounds if he can make it justly to appear that he was soe much behinde for my tuterage or pay the same to any of his children that can make a just clayme and give a discharge for the same Item all the rest residue and remaind<sup>r</sup> of my estate goods cattells and money I give and bequeath unto my Cozen Jane Hayhurst And lastly I doe nominate and appoint my Cousin Jane Hayhurst to be sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup> hopeing she will see the same pformed in all things according as my trust is reposed in her And I doe hereby revoke disclayme and make voide all former Wills and Testaments by me made In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seale the day and year above written—Bradley



Hayhurst—Sealed signed published and declared as the last Will and Testament of the within named Testat<sup>r</sup> in presence of us Tho. Kent—Jacob Hall—James Nixon

Proved in the Consistory Court of Chester the 19th June, 1685, by the Executrix.

#### RIBCHESTER FREE SCHOOL, 1771.

Writing in 1833-4 Baines says: "A free school established here under the will of John Dewhurst, in 1771, and, by a gift from Richard Higham, affords instruction to about 100 poor children of the townships of Ribchester, Dutton, and Halifax, the parish paying for such instruction as the children receive in writing and arithmetic. The pecuniary affairs of this school have been involved in much difficulty, owing to the devise of the testator being void under the statute of Geo. III., c. 36, and to the money, when the compromise was made, not being duly in-



vested for the use of the school, the annual income of which is £22 10s. 0d.”<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT JENKINSON'S CHARITY, 1616.

Robert Jenkinson, citizen and merchant taylor of London, left by will, dated 15 April, 1616, “to the poor within the parish of Ribchester, where he was born, fifty pounds to be spent in lands or tenements for the relief of the poor;”<sup>2</sup> the churchwardens for the time being were empowered to make the distribution to the poor. On 4th November, 1623, an inquisition was held at Wigan before the Bishop of Chester and John Leigh concerning this will; and fourteen days later the above-named sum was paid by the executors to Robert Dewhurst, one of the churchwardens, “which said Robert signed a bond” to his fellow-warden James Norcrosse. Dewhurst died in possession of goods and chattels sufficient to pay the said sum, but which said sum is not yet paid.<sup>3</sup> We now lose sight of the matter for nearly a hundred years. Among the charity papers at Ribchester is a copy of an indenture, dated 1723, wherein £10 “left and given by one Jenkinson” is mentioned as being invested with a sum of £20 left by Norcrosse (see *post.*) It is clear from what follows that the original amount left by Jenkinson dwindled down considerably, owing to its not having been invested in land. In the churchwardens’ account book occurs the following:—“1671. Spent when I went to view y<sup>e</sup> goods of Richard Norcrosse, w<sup>ch</sup> were left by him to pay £5 of poore money.....6d.” It is possible this may have had something to do with Jenkinson’s charity. The Charity Commisioners in their Report are unable to clear up the matter.

From the books of Norcrosse’s charity we find that from 1791 to 1852 36s. yearly, being interest on £40 which had been invested by the overseers (to whom the money had been lent) in Ribchester Workhouse, was received from the overseers. In 1852 (in spite of many protests) this payment was disallowed by the Poor Law Auditor.

Very little is known about the donor. Doubtless early in life he went to “seek his fortune” in London. We are told he lived

<sup>1</sup>Baines’s *Lanc.*, ii., 385.

<sup>2</sup>Extract from Will.

<sup>3</sup>*Harl. MSS.*, 2176, fol. 32b.

"in the parish of St. Dunstane's in the West, in Fleet-street, in the surburbes of London," He died in 1617, and was buried in the church of St. Duncan. His goods were "to be divided into three equal parts," according to the custom of the city of London. He seems to have been very wealthy, and left many charitable legacies in addition to the one to his native place.

JAMES STANFORD'S DOLE, 1695.

This charity originally consisted of £150 left by James Stanford, of Clayton-le-Dale, for a fund, of which the yearly produce was to be distributed among the poor (Catholics especially) of Stydd, Bailey, and Ribchester—half to Stydd, and a quarter each to Bailey and Ribchester. "This stock appears to have been augmented" (says Baines) "to £452 10s. by a legacy in trust for other purposes, which was laid out in purchase of land in 1740. Annual produce (1833) £50."

NORCROSSE'S CHARITY, *ante* 1732.

(Commonly called "Dod's Hall Charity.")

Among the charity papers preserved at Ribchester is a copy of an indenture, dated 1732, referring to "£20 being a donation given by one William Norcross for and towards the binding of poor apprentices." In consideration of this £20, and £10 (already mentioned) left by Jenkinson, a farm of three acres was conveyed by John Dodd, of Dutton, to "the churchwarden and overseers of Ribchester;" the yearly proceeds to be devoted to the "uses and none other" as first designed. Those "uses" were "for and towards the binding of poor apprentices." Down to 1849, 21s. a year was paid for that purpose, when it was diverted to the use of the poor. In 1721 the rent received was £2 10s; in 1832 it was £9 10s.; and in 1871 the property was sold to Mr. William Fenton for the sum of £379. This amount was invested in Consols, and now produces annually the sum of £12 5s. The money is distributed on or about December 21, with discrimination by the trustees.

MRS. DEWHURST'S CHARITY, 1842.

This charity, commonly known as "Waterworth's Dole," was established in 1842, under the will of Mrs. Betty Dewhurst, widow, of Ribchester. By her will, dated 23 Aug., 1842, she left the sum of £1,300 upon trust to the vicar and churchwardens, for

investment in land or Government security, the interest to be divided among "the poor, indigent, and well-deserving inhabitants of the township of Ribchester," at the discretion of the trustees, on or about the 20th Dec., yearly. The money, invested in the mortgage of an estate at Accrington, brings in £65 yearly; the expenses of management are only 7s. 6d. yearly, while no less than 137 people participated in the dole in 1889. Mrs. Dewhurst, who was a connection of the founder of Ribchester Free School, died Oct. 19, 1842.

#### CHARITIRS OF THE TOWNLEYS, 1747-1808.

In 1747, the sum of £25 was given by Henry Townley, Esq., of Dutton, and Ann, his wife, the interest to be laid out in cloth, and given yearly to the poor housekeepers of Dutton by the vicar and churchwardens.

In 1789, the sum of £50 was given by Townley Ward, Esq., of London, grandson of the said Henry and Ann Townley, the interest to be applied in like manner.

In 1790, the further sum of £50 was given by Mrs. Jennet Ward, daughter of the above-named Henry and Ann Townley, for the same purpose.

In April, 1807, the above-mentioned sums, with a small additional interest, were laid out by the direction of Mr. Ward and other inhabitants of the township in the purchase of £198 16s., 3 per cents.

In January, 1808, Mr. Ward added to this fund a benefaction of £50, which produced a further sum of £75 3s. 9d., 3 per cents., making altogether £373 19s. 9d. The money was afterwards re-invested in 4 per cents., and now produces about £7 10s. yearly, which is distributed by the trustees in cloth among the poor of the township. Full particulars of Henry Townley and his family will be found in chap. xi.

#### MISS QUARTLEY'S CHARITY, 1880.

The donor of this charity was Henriette Jane Quartley, daughter of the Rev. James Quartley, rector of Ribchester, 1802-29. By her will she left nineteen guineas, the interest thereof to be distributed amongst the poor of Ribchester at Christmas, yearly. The present amount of the charity invested in

new 3 per cents. is £20 3s., and the interest received is 12s. The rector for the time being was appointed trustee.

#### JENKINSON'S CHARITY.

The Charity Commissioners state that the sum of £10, *supposed* to have been left by Robert Jenkinson, appears to have been laid out about 1780, towards building three cottages for the poor in the township of Hothersall. Whether this statement is correct or not I am unable to say. But 9s. or 10s. yearly was paid for many years as interest by the overseers, and distributed amongst the poor. The two (not three) cottages were also built in Hothersall-lane. Over the doors is an oval slate tablet bearing the following inscription:—

Erected for The Occupation of The Poor, 1788.

It has been impossible to discover who now "owns" this property; but we fear the charity is now irrecoverably lost.

#### JOHN SEED'S CHARITY, 1667.

In the churchwardens' account book is the following entry:—

"1667, payd unto Thomas S.....for making of a letter of attorney, and an acquittance for the receipt of the five pounds w'ch were given by Mr. John Seed unto the poor.....1s. 0d." No trace of the donor or of his bequest remains.

## CHAPTER XI.

## Old Families.

## HOTHERSALL, OF HOTHERSALL HALL.



AN interesting account of this old family is given in Gillow's *Bib. Dict.*, from which the following is taken :—

"The manor of Hothersall . . . belonged to the family before the invasion of the Normans. It (the manor house) had its chapel, its secret hiding places, its ghost; and it has gathered round it memories and traditions which time-worn stones, carvings, and inscriptions still tend to preserve. Allied by inter-marriage with the Hoghtons, of Hoghton; Rishtons, of Dunkenhalgh; Crombleholmes, of Dutton; Talbots, of Salesbury; Walmsleys, of Showley; and other ancient Lancashire families, the Hothersalls could show as proud and unbroken a descent from the time of the Conquest as any other family in the County."

Robert de Hadreshall, who held two bovates of land in Hadreshall, is the first on record of this family. His son, Warine de Hadreshall, was living, I John (1199-1200), and was the father of Thomas de Hedreshall, whose *inq. p. m.* is dated 41 Hen. iii (1256-7). He died seized of land in Alston and Hothersall.

Robert de Hadreshall, son of Thomas, had issue, sons John, aged 54, 17 Ed. i. (1289); Robert; William; Adam; and Thomas de Hodersall, who married 5 Ed. ii. (1311-12) Margery, daughter of Richard de Hocton, of Hoghton, held Hothersall by service of 5s. *per annum*.

Robert de Hadreshall, Thomas's son, according to the survey of 1320-46, held two oxgangs of land in Hothersall, in socage on the same terms as his father.

Richard de Hodersale, Robert's son and Emma, his wife, were living 47 Ed. iii (1373-4.)

Adam de Hodersall, son of Richard, was living 1385-95.

Robert de Hodersall, son of Adam, was living in 1416.

Richard de Hodersall is the next representative of the family we meet with.



In 24 Hen. viii (1536) Robert Huddersall, son and heir of Richard, was concerned in a claim to the tithes of Ribchester, and again in 1541-2 (see p. 79). Robert Huddersall married Isabel, daughter of Nicholas Rishton, of Rishton and Dunkenhalgh, and his wife Margt., dau. of John Ratcliffe, of the Tower, Esq., and by her had issue, John; and Margaret, wife of Richard Crombleholme, of Dutton, gent. His *inq. p. m.* is dated 19 Eliz. (1576-7).

John Hothersall, son and heir of Robert, was born 12 May, 1522. On 1 Sep., 1534, a marriage contract was made between John Hothersall and Anne, daughter of John Talbot, of Salesbury. The marriage had not taken place 7 Ed. vi. (1553). The marriage, however, did take place afterwards. John Hothersall was a staunch Catholic, and his name appears in a list of "Obstinate Catholics," reported by the Bishop of Chester in 1576 to the Privy Council. He had four sons, Richard; John; Robert, a recusant in 1594-5, and in 1604-5; and George (afterwards O.S.B., imprisoned for being a priest and exiled). Having served the mission near Hothersall, he died probably about 1633 at Hothersall Hall. A letter from Thomas Talbot, the antiquary, to John Hothersall, his brother-in-law, is cited by Mr. Abram.<sup>1</sup>

Richard Hothersall, eldest son and heir of John, married Alice, daughter of Thomas Walmesley, of Showley, Esq., and sister of Sir Thomas Walmesley, of Dunkenhalgh, and by her had issue, sons, John; and Thomas. Richard Hothersall died 28 Jan., 1609-10; and at the inquisition held at Preston, 4 Oct., 1610, was returned as being seized in fee of a capital messuage called Hothersall Hall, situate in Hothersall, 5 messuages, 6 cottages, 30 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture with the appurtenances, in Hothersall, also an acre of land in Ribchester. He was a staunch recusant throughout his life.

John Hothersall, eldest son of Richard, was born about 1584. Nicholas Assheton in his *Journal*, under date Trinity Sunday, May 31, 1618, says:—"Shuffling John Huthersall and I had some wordes," (evidently about religion.) John Hothersall died in 1632. Both he and his wife Maria (who was buried at Ribchester, Oct. 23, 1626) being staunch recusants. In 1625, he refused the honour of knighthood, paying the fine of £10.

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. of Blackburn*, 650.

Dying without issue, (his son Richard, bapt. 7 Oct., 1623, dying young) John Hothersall was succeeded by his brother Thomas Hothersall. In 1664-5, he returned a pedigree at Dugdale's visitation. He married Bridget, daughter of Wm. Haydock, of Cottam Hall, Esq. (who was buried at Ribchester, June 1, 1657) and had children, John, George, William, and Elizabeth (who married Cuthbert Haydock, of Cottam Hall, Esq.) Thomas Hothersall who was 80 years old in 1665, was heavily fined for recusancy. No entry of his burial occurs in the Ribchester register.

John Hothersall, gent., eldest son (born in 1614) died in his father's lifetime. He married Margery, daughter of James Wall, of Preston, Esq., and by her had issue, sons, Thomas; John, died young; and daughters, Jane, married Lawrence Cottam, of Bannister Hey, Claughton, gent.; Alice, married John Lathom, of Sowerby, gent. John Hothersall was a captain in the royal army, and after having suffered much for recusancy, was killed in 1645 at Greenhalgh Castle, near Garstang. His widow married, 13 Feb., 1647, Robert Haydock, of Cottam, gent.

George, the second son of Thomas Hothersall, was a lieutenant in the royal army and lost his life at Liverpool in 1644, dying unmarried.

The third son William, resided at Alston, and with his wife Grace, suffered severely for recusancy, (See p. 62.)

Thomas Hothersall, of Hothersall Hall, Esq., succeeded his grandfather. Born 10 May, 1644, he married (1) a lady whose name is unknown, (buried July 16, 1688), and had issue by her, sons, John; George, bapt. at Ribchester, Feb. 8, 1681, buried Aug. 12, 1703; Alice, buried Jan. 18, 1686; Isabel, died unmarried; Margery, co-heiress with her sister Anne, married Edward Winstanley, of Pemberton, gent.; and Anne, co-heiress with her sister Margery, died about 1752. By his second wife, Catherine, daughter of — Lancaster, of Thornley, gent., whom he married Jan. 9, 1689, Thomas Hothersall had issue, two daughters, Sarah, bapt. at Ribchester, May 29, 1697; and Grace, bapt. Aug. 18, 1700. Thomas Hothersall's second wife was buried at Ribchester before 1701. His third wife, Jenet, was buried in 1701. Like all his ancestors, Thomas Hothersall paid the annual

finer for recusancy in 1667, *et seq.*, and was convicted of the same in 1717. A prominent member of the "Gentlemen and xxiv," he was generally called "Judge Hothersall, of Hothersall." His initials, T. H., the date 1695, and the family arms—Azure, a Lion rampant gardant, or.—are cut on a stone formerly over the entrance of Hothersall Hall.<sup>1</sup> He was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 18, 1720. By his will, dated 2 Jan., 1719, he left all his property to Alex. Osbaldeston, of Preston, Esq., in trust for his five daughters, the sum of £10, to be paid yearly to each of his four daughters for 20 years, and £100 to his daughter Anne, wife of William Leekonby, Esq.

John Hothersall, eldest son of Thomas, joined the rebels and was taken prisoner at Preston, Nov. 13, 1715, but effected his escape. He was convicted of recusancy at Lancaster, Jan. 15, 1716, outlawed, and attainted and convicted of high treason. He lived in retirement with his sister, Mrs. Leekonby, at Great Eccleston, where he died unmarried between 1740 and 1750.

Eventually Mrs. Leekonby and her sister Margery (who married Edward Winstanley, of Pemberton) became co-heiresses to the estates. Mrs. Leekonby taking the Hothersall portion. The estates comprised the following farms:—The demesne lands belonging to the Hall, Brown House, Wilkinson's, Oxheys, Walshouse, Cockhill, Ingham's, Slater's, Hacking's, Rogerson's, Home's, and Crosse Hall.

The Leekonbys became extinct by the marriage of the last daughter of the house, Mary, great granddaughter of William Leekonby, Esq., with T. H. H. Phipps, Esq., High Sheriff, of Wilts, who was the mother of Miss E. M. Phipps, Leekonby Cottage, Great Eccleston. By the kindness of Miss Phipps, I am enabled to re-produce an engraving of a family picture of an interesting character.

The Hothersall Hall estate was sold by the Phippses towards the close of last century, and after passing through several hands, became the property of the late Jonathan Openshaw, Esq., of Bury, to whose nephew, Frederick Openshaw, Esq., J.P., it now belongs. The hall has been almost, if not entirely, rebuilt.

<sup>1</sup> See illust. in *Hist. of Longridge*, p. 132.

Reference has been made to the domestic chapel at Hothersall Hall. On Oct. 17, 1715, George Green, high constable of the Hundred of Amounderness, reported that "Mr. Vavisor, who is a reputed priest, harboured in our town (Alston-cum-Hothersall)." No doubt Fr. Vavasour frequently said Mass at Hothersall Hall.

There are two traditions attaching to Hothersall Hall: One referring to the "laying" of the devil or "boggart" beneath the laurel tree; the other to the practice of tying red thread round the cows' tails previous to turning them out to grass for the first time in the spring, to secure them from "the evil eye," etc. (See pages 72-3.)

#### "THE HEIRESS OF HOTHERSALL HALL."

This picture, in the possession of Miss E. M. Phipps (by whose kindness I am able to reproduce an engraving), displays the touch of a master hand, and was evidently painted about 1719.<sup>1</sup>

#### TOWNLEY, OF DUTTON HALL.

Considerable doubt as to who was the first representative of this branch of the Townleys of Townley has existed. But Christopher Towneley, to whose patient industry antiquarians are so much indebted, states "that these three Townleys (John, Robert, and Henry) were y<sup>e</sup> sons of Richard Townley; and that this Robert was the first Townley of Dutton—on margin of deed from Sibill Cliderhoe, '*la femme menser*' of Robert de Cliderhowe—3 Ric. II. (1379-80)."<sup>2</sup> So that it seems clear that Robert Townley was the first of the Dutton family.

Henry Townley, son of Robert, "gave to John White, Vicar of the church of Preston, in Amounderness, and Henry de Assidence (?) of the parish of Blackburn, his lands (in trust) in Clinacher, Ribchester, and Dutton—given at Brockholl, 8 Hen. V. (1420-1)."<sup>3</sup>

It is stated in the margin of John de Towneley's *inq.*, 10 Mar., 1400, that Richard Towneley was born at Stede, in Dutton, 14 May, 1387; baptized in Ribchester church; and Richard and

The portraits are those of:—In the centre (1) Anne, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Hothersall, Esq.; and (2) her husband, William Leckonby, Esq.; to the right (3) Richard, eldest son and successor; and (4) Bridget, eldest surviving daughter, sitting at the feet of her mother;

(5) Mary, afterwards wife of Thomas Singleton, of Barniker, gent.; (6) Anne in the nurse's arms; (7) Thomas, who became a Jesuit; and on the mother's knee (8) William.

<sup>2</sup> *Towneley*, MSS., D.D., 2014.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 2020.



THE HEIRESS OF HOTHERSALL HALL.





Cecilia de Clyderhowe were his god-parents.<sup>1</sup> He would be the son of Robert Townley.

Henry Townley, son of Richard, was a juror at the *ing. p. m.* taken at Blackburn, of Richard Townley, Esq., April 30, 1445.<sup>2</sup>

Henry Townley, by Margaret his wife, had a son and heir, Thomas Townley, and was living in 1474.

Richard Townley, of Dutton, son of Thomas, was married twice. By his first wife, Alice, he had sons, John; Henry; and Robert, a clerk; and a daughter, Margaret, who married John Holker, of Read, yeoman. By his second wife (whom he married in 1531), Jane, daughter of Roger Winckley, of Aighton, gent., he had no issue.

John Townley, of Dutton (returned in Dugdale's Visitation as second son), was, Mr. W. A. Abram concludes, the eldest son of Henry. In 29 Hen. VIII. (1537), John Townley, son and heir apparent of Richard Townley, disputed with Richard Crombleholme and others the title to certain lands in Dutton and Ribchester, and particularly a piece of land called Carlinghurst (see p. 53). By his wife, Katherine, he had a daughter Jane. From his will, dated 22.....1562, we obtain the following information: "To be buried in the parishe church at Rybchester. To his wife Katherine he gave his lands in Dutton (held by him in socage) called Handfield, Widdow Grenes, Cowfeild, Okin Ridding, Great and Little Banks, Hewer Lees, Ponstones, Ruydens — for 21 years, and then to his right heires." He further directed that "1d. be geven to every person being present at the tyme of my buryall that wyllingly wyll take it; to Jane his daughter, £10; to Sir James Lyngard, Vicar of Ribchester, 13s. 4d.; to Sir Jamys More, 10s.; to Sir Richard Mersden, 10s." The rest of his goods to his wife, appointed executrix, with "my singular good M'r, John Talbot of Sayleburye, esquire, supervisor."<sup>3</sup>

John Townley's widow appears to have afterwards married one James Bolton of Salesbury.

Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., brother of John, succeeded to the estate. By his wife, Lucy, daughter of Edmund Sherburne, of Sherburne House, Mitton, Esq., he had sons Richard; John,

<sup>1</sup> *Lanc. and Ches. Antiq. Notes*, I., 183.

<sup>2</sup> *Townley MSS.*, D.D.  
<sup>3</sup> *Surtces Soc. Rich. Wills*, 1853.

married Alice Crombleholme ; Henry ; Lawrence ; and Edmund. His wife died in 1602, and was buried at Ribchester, June 21. In 1582 Henry Townley was concerned in a dispute about a right of way in "Longridge and Fauney" (see page 54). In 1600 he is returned as a freeholder for the county. He died in 1609 at an advanced age.

Richard Townley, of Dutton, gent., son and heir of Henry, married Anne, daughter of William Browne, of Aintree. By her he had sons, Henry ; John ; Richard ; Lawrence ; and Thomas, baptized at Ribchester, Dec. 21, 1614 ; and daughters, Susan, wife of Mr Henry Hayhurst, jun., of Ribchester ; Lucy ; and Grace. Richard Townley was buried at Ribchester, Sep., 13, 1618. At the *inq. p. m.*, held at Preston 7 Sep., 1619, he was declared to have held lands in Dutton, of R. Sherborne, Esq., in socage by fealty and rent of one red rose per ann. ; and premises in Hothersall, of John Hothersall, gent. His widow married at Ribchester, Oct. 30, 1622, Mr. Henry Hayhurst, of Ribchester.

Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., son and heir of Richard, married at Ribchester church, June 26, 1626, Alice, daughter and co-heiress of Abraham Colthurst, of Burnley, gent., and by her had issue sons, Richard, bapt. at Ribchester, April 30, 1630 ; Henry, bapt. Nov. 18, 1632 ; Abraham, bapt. at Ribchester, May 3, 1635 ; John, bapt. at Ribchester, Nov. 19, 1637 ; Lawrence, and Thomas. His daughters were—Anne, married (1) Ellis Nutter, of Waterside, in Pendle (a son, Thomas, bapt. at Ribchester, Mar. 4, 1648), and (2) Ellis Nutter, of Reedley, near Burnley ; Margaret, married William Sagar, of Catlow, gent. ; and Grace, bapt. at Ribchester, Feb. 8, 1640. Henry Townley appears among the list of esquires and gentlemen in Lancashire who preferred to pay the fine rather than incur the expense of knighthood in 1625 (see p. 55). He was also required to furnish "one muskett" for the Parliamentary forces about 1642. He died in 1645, his widow surviving him 24 years, being buried at Ribchester, June 4, 1669.

Richard Townley, of Dutton, gent., succeeded his father at the age of 15. At Dugdale's Visitation in 1664, he entered himself as then aged 34 years. He died unmarried, aged 40 years, and was buried at Ribchester, April 16, 1670.

Abraham Townley, of Dutton, gent., succeeded his brother Richard. He married Jenet, youngest daughter of William Shuttleworth, of Asterley, near Whalley, gent., and by her had issue, sons, Henry; and Richard, baptized at Ribchester, Aug. 24, 1681; and daughters, Anne, who married, in 1737, Rev. E. Bolton, of Rochdale; Alice; and Margaret, bapt. at Ribchester, Dec. 27, 1687. Abraham Townley's name figures prominently in the church books of Ribchester; he was frequently churchwarden, and a member of the "gentlemen and xxiv." In 1690 he was elected a governor of Blackburn Grammar School, and in 1694 "was a juror on the celebrated trial of the Jacobite gentry for treason at Manchester." He died, aged 66 years, and was buried at Ribchester, Sep. 23, 1700. In his will, proved at Chester in 1701, Abraham Townley mentions his "ancient inheritance and estate in Dutton," his brothers John Townley, of Clitheroe; and Lawrence Townley, of Burnley; and his wife, two sons, and three daughters.<sup>1</sup> His widow, Mrs. Jenet Townley, survived him many years, and was buried at Ribchester, March 8, 1735: "Jenet Townley wid. from Bilington."

Richard, the second son of Abraham, appears to have lived at Ribchester as a mercer until about 1732; he then became the owner of the estate of Belfield, near Rochdale,<sup>2</sup> where he died before 1752.

Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., eldest son of Abraham, married in 1702-3, Anne, daughter of Thomas Wilson, of Giggleswick, gent. (she survived him, and married, secondly, John Nock, of Preston, gent., and was buried at Ribchester, Sep. 13, 1743). Henry Townley had issue a son, Abraham, baptized at Ribchester, Jan. 7, 1706, and buried Feb. 1, 1706, "aged 24 days;" and daughters, Jane, bapt. July 25, 1703; Janet, bapt. Aug. 11, 1707; Anne, bapt. Oct. 12, 1709, and buried July 6, 1714; and Margaret, bapt. Dec. 27, 1712, married Lawrence Wall, of Preston, gent., and died in 1756. Like his father, Henry Townley seems to have taken a leading part in "Church and State" affairs at Ribchester; he was churchwarden and a member of "the xxiv." He managed the "Naden estates" (see *post*) for St. John's College, Cambridge.

<sup>1</sup>See Mr. J. F. Beever's Papers in *Manc. Cou. Loc. Gleanings*.

<sup>2</sup>See Fishwick's *Rochdale*, 344, 5.

His burial in Ribchester church is thus recorded: "1731, May 22, Henry Townley de Dutton, Esq., in ch."

Dutton Hall, a stately building finely situated on the southern slopes of the Fell, was erected by Richard Townley, 1670-80.<sup>1</sup> The hall, now used as a farm house, is in a remarkably good state of preservation.

The eldest daughter of Henry Townley, Jane, married Edward Entwistle, gent., of Ribchester, to whom I refer elsewhere.

The second daughter, Jenet Townley, married the Rev. Henry Ward, of Ingatestone, co. Essex (buried at Ribchester, Sept., 1745), and had a son, Henry Townley Ward, who died in London, Feb. 14, 1810. Mrs. Jane Ward lived some time at Preston, and died in her 93rd year at Kirkham, and was buried in 1799 at Ribchester church.

The Townley family left certain charities for the poor of their native place, which are enumerated in chap. x.

In 1738 the three daughters of Henry Townley joined in a partition of the estate, Dutton Hall falling to the share of Jane Townley, wife of Edward Entwistle. In 1805 Mr. W. Joule purchased the estate, and in 1823 sold it to Mr. James Rothwell, whose nephew, the late Marquess de Rothwell, of Bolton, was the owner until his death this year (1890).

The arms of the Townleys were: Argent, a fess and chief, three mullets, sable.

On page 46 I have drawn attention to an inaccuracy of Dr. Whitaker with regard to the Townley's ownership of the manor of Dutton. I have to add that the pedigree of this family and of the Hothersalls, as printed in the new edition of Baines's *Lancashire*, iv., 107-10, contains many mistakes—a very regrettable fact considering the prominent way in which public attention is drawn to the "corrected" "pedigrees."

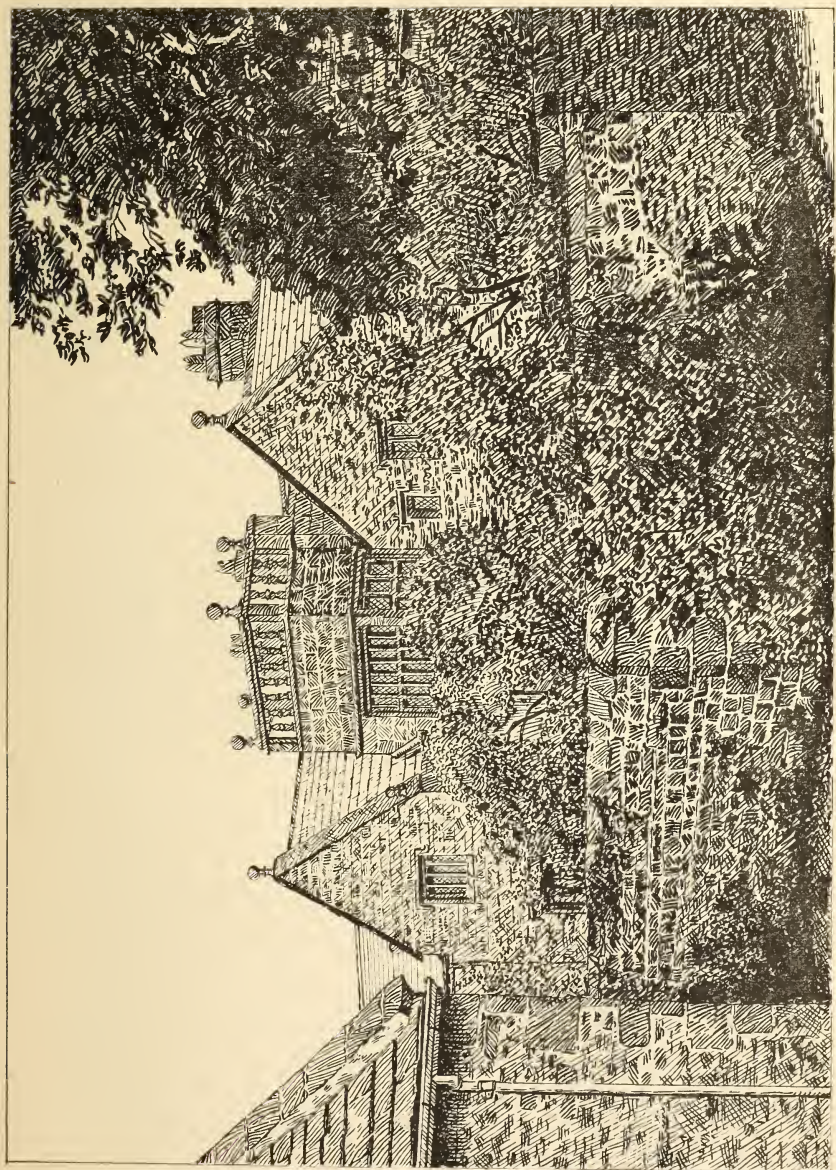
#### THE HAYHURSTS OF DUTTON.

This family were settled in Dutton in the fourteenth century. In 2 Ed. III, (1329) Robert de Cliderhowe gave Otto de Hayhurst four acres and a rood of land in Hayhurst, in the town of Dutton,

<sup>1</sup> In 1707 Dutton Hall, and five acres of land, occupied by Jenetta Dewhurst, widow; and along with other property

in Rochdale, Ribchester, etc., belonged to Alexander Butterworth, of Belfield, Esq. (*Harl. MSS.*, 7347).





J. Miller, Lith., Preston.

DUTTON HALL.



at a yearly rent of six silver pennies.<sup>1</sup> In 9 Ed. III. (1336) Otto de Hayhurst and Margaret, his wife, assigned to John de Bayley the mediety of the mill near the Hoder.<sup>2</sup>

In 9 Hen. VI. (1431) William de Bradley, chaplain of the chantry of Bailey, gave Robert, son of John Hayhurst, lands in Dutton "from the waters of the Ribble."<sup>2</sup>

In 1508-9 Sir Richard Woodruff, of Newland, received from John Hayhurst 6s. 8d. rent due from his father, Henry Hayhurst, for divers lands in Dutton."<sup>2</sup>

In 24 Hen. VII. (1509) John Hayhurst was concerned in a dispute regarding certain lands in Dutton with Richard Goodshay of Ribchester.<sup>2</sup>

In 16 Eliz. (1574) Johanna, formerly wife of Henry Hayhurst, deceased, was party to a bond with her son John.<sup>2</sup>

John Hayhurst, of the Hayhurst, Dutton, gent., was probably the son of Henry Hayhurst. By his wife, Anne, he had issue, sons, Henry, Edmund, John, and Thomas; and daughters, Mary; and Grace, wife of Roger Winkeley. He died 2 May, 1619, and was buried ("John Haihurst de Waterside") at Ribchester. In his will, dated 26 April, 1619, he names his wife and daughter Mary executors. At the *inq. p. m.*, held at Preston, John Hayhurst was declared to have died seized in fee of 3 messuages in Dutton, called "le Hayhurst," "le furtherhouse," and "Houghwell," with lands, etc., held of the heirs of Richard de Dutton by 5d. rent.

Henry Hayhurst, of Hayhurst, gent., son and heir of John, was born in 1577, and had issue by his wife, Anne, widow of Richard Townley, of Dutton, gent., married at Ribchester, Oct. 30, 1622, a son, William, bapt. Sept. 28, 1623.

Richard Hayhurst, of Dutton, gent., was born in 1581, and may have been a son of John Hayhurst, although not mentioned in the will from which I have quoted. He had a numerous family, including sons, Bradley, Robert, William, John, Benjamin, Jonathan, bapt. at Ribchester, Dec. 18, 1621; and Titus; and daughters, Grace; and Jane. Richard Hayhurst and several of his sons were strong Parliamentarians, and took an active part in the ejection of Vicar Hindley during the Civil War (see chap. iii.). Two of

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MSS., O. O.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

the sons, John and Jonathan, were officers in the Parliamentary armies, and no doubt did their share in the numerous skirmishes and battles in the neighbourhood of Ribchester.

Richard Hayhurst was buried at Ribchester, March 17, 1667, aged 86.

The Rev. Bradley Hayhurst, son of Richard Hayhurst, Vicar of Leigh, rector of Taxall, and curate of Macclesfield, was the founder of the Ribchester Parish Church Library (see chap. x).

The Rev. Robert Hayhurst, son of Richard Hayhurst, was minister of Coley chapel, near Halifax. He is thus referred to by Rev. Oliver Heywood: "The next settled minister was Mr. Robert Hierst (Hayhurst), born at Ribchester, in Lancashire. His brother, Mr. Bradley Hierst, Vicar of Leigh, turned out upon the Act of Uniformity; yet living at Maxfield, in Cheshire. This choice young man (Mr. Robert Hayhurst) was at Coley seven or eight years, but fell into a consumption: took his solemn leave in the chapel; told them he had spent his strength with them. He was able to preach no more. There was great weeping and lamentation at the parting; he pined away; had his mother with him, whose breasts he sucked as long as he was able; then died at Upper Briar, where he was tabled, leaving a sweet savour behind him both of sound doctrine and holy life: was much lamented."<sup>1</sup> William Hayhurst, of Hayhurst, gent., son of Henry Hayhurst, had issue a son, Henry, bapt. Oct. 19, 1653; and a daughter, Mary, bapt. July 2, 1659, wife of Richard Hartley, and executrix of Rev. Bradley Hayhurst.

Henry Hayhurst, of Hayhurst, gent., son of William, was probably "the kinsman" mentioned in Mr. Bradley Hayhurst's will, and who, along with Mr. Kippax, went to Macclesfield to fetch the library to Ribchester. He had issue, sons, Richard, William, and John; and daughters, Anne and Elizabeth. Henry Hayhurst was buried at Ribchester, May 9, 1701.

Richard Hayhurst, of Hayhurst, gent., son of Henry, by his wife Jane (buried at Ribchester, May 28, 1732), had issue, daughters, Janet, Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth. He was churchwarden of Ribchester, 1729-30, and a member of the "gentleman and xxiv."

<sup>1</sup>O. Heywood's *Diaries*, iv., 10-11.



"The Hey Hurst," as the residence of the Hayhursts is now called, is situated in Dutton, close to the boundary line of the township of Bailey.

THE DEWHURSTS OF BOYES HOUSE, RIBCHESTER.

The Dewhursts of Dewhurst, Wilpshire, from whom this branch descended, had long been settled in Blackburn parish.<sup>1</sup>

John Dewhurst, of Dewhurst, gent., married Grace, daughter and heir of Henry Boyes, of Boyes House (she was buried at Ribchester.....), and had issue, sons, William, born in 1587; and John; and daughters, Ellen, wife of Richard Banester, of Craven; Mary, wife of George Southworth of Highfield, Esq.; and Ann. John Dewhurst ("Mr. John Dewhurst de Boyes House") was buried at Ribchester, Mar. 15, 1619.<sup>2</sup> In 1588 he contributed £25 to the defence of the country at the time of the Spanish invasion.

In 13 Eliz. (1571) a bill of complaint was entered in the Duchy Court by John Shireburne, of Ribbleton, gent., against Henry and Thomas Seed and John Duddell, from which we gather that Boyes House farm with 60 acres of land had been let to the Complainant at an annual rent of £4 13s. 4d. on lease by John Dewhurst and Grace, his wife. It was alleged that the indenture of lease, etc., had of late "by casuall meanes" come into the hands of the defendants, who, "by color of having thereof, have not onlye with fforce and armes, and in verie riottous maner, beinge accompanied withe dyvers other evill disposed persons," used "mighte and power," "beinge weaponed with swordes, bucklers, longe pyked staves, and pytche forkes," and entered into the said messuage. Not only did they (continues the plaintiff) spoil the græss "growing on the premises," but also with "force and stronge hand" did evict the tenants; and, not satisfied yet, proceeded "to pull downe dyvers doers, wyndowes, floers, and bordes." In spite of repeated "gentle" remonstrances, the plaintiff could obtain no redress, and being ignorant of the "certen daite" of the lease and papers, and whether the same be

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Dewhurst, of Ribchester, by will dated 16 Dec., 1563, left his "waynes plowes" to his son William; and desires to be "buried in the parish church of Ribchester on ye

south syde of the pulpit"—Witnesses: "Thomas Sede, Thomas Coulte, John Cottam, and Sir James Lynggart, vicar of Ribchester."

<sup>2</sup> *History of Blackburn*, 751.



"conteyned in bagge or boxe, sealed or unsealed, in chiste or chistes, locked or unlocked," he prayed for a writ of privy seal.<sup>1</sup>

In 20 Eliz. (1578) John Dewhurst complained that Henry Edesfurth and Margaret, his wife, had illegally taken possession of a farm (the property of the late Henry Preston) sub-leased to the said John Dewhurst by Richard Singleton, of Chipping. Further he stated that as the defendants were persons of "greate welthe and habilitie, and greatlie frended, kynned, and alyed with the freholders and jurors" within the County Palatine, and that on the other hand he (the said John Dewhurst) was "a poore yonge manne," with few friends, and "of no welthe or habilitie," he anticipated an unfair trial at common-law. He, therefore, prayed for a trial in the duchy-chamber at Westminster.<sup>2</sup>

William Dewhurst, of Boyes House, gent., married Hellen, third daughter of Thomas Southworth, of Samlesbury, Esq., and had issue, sons, John, born in 1610, buried at Ribchester, Mar. 8, 1620; Anthony, died young; William; and George; and daughters, Rosamond; and Grace, bapt. Feb. 11, 1611. William Dewhurst was buried at Ribchester, July 6, 1621. At his death he was seized of "Dewhurst" and "Ashes" with 10 acres of land in Wilpshire, held of Sir John Talbot, of Salesbury; and of Boyes House with lands in Ribchester. His widow married Richard Houghton, gent.

William Dewhurst, of Boyes House, gent., son and heir of William, had issue, a son, William, born in 1664; and a daughter, Anne, buried May 20, 1665.

In the *Royalist Composition Papers*<sup>3</sup> is a very long account, extending to no less than forty folios, of the delinquency of William Dewhurst, who was reported in 1664 "for being in arms against the Parliament." Summarising the account, we learn that he "came in upon my Lord ffairfax' his passe<sup>4</sup> 31st June, 1664;" had taken the "National Covenant," and the "Negative oath." He was seized of "divers messauges and lands" in "the townes and ffields of Dewhurst in the parish of Blackburn,

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Plead.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> 1st Series.

<sup>4</sup> In which permission was granted to "Mr. W. Dewhurst and his wife,

one maid servant, and two men servants, with two trunks of wearing apparell," to proceed to Dewhurst, in Wilpshire.

Rybchester, and Hothersall," all of the "cleare yearly value before these troubles of £134. The estate seems to have been mortgaged to Thomas Hodgson, alderman, and Thomas Morrett, gent., of York. After humbly confessing his fault, "being misled into taking up armes" against the Parliament, and having laid down his armes and become "more well-affected" to Parliament, William Dewhurst was allowed to compound for his delinquency by paying a fine of £268.

William Dewhurst, of Ribchester, gent., son of William, married Sep. 17, 1672, at Langho Chapel, Mary Clayton, of Billington, and had issue, a son, Clayton, bapt. at Ribchester, Oct. 13, 1682; and a daughter, Margaret, bapt. Nov. 18, 1673. William Dewhurst died in 1696, and was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 27th, aged 52.

Clayton Dewhurst, of Ribchester, gent., son of William, married Alice Parkinson, of Blackburn, Feb. 9, 1702, and had issue, sons, William, bapt. Jan. 2, 1704; Roger, bapt. Feb. 26, 1708; Tempest, bapt. Sep. 30, 1711; and a daughter Mary, bapt. Sep. 4, 1709, who died young. Clayton Dewhurst, was a leading member of the "gentlemen and xxiv," and was churchwarden in 1707 and 1709. He was buried at Ribchester (Clayton Dewhurst de Rib. gent.), June 26, 1712, aged 30.

Later descendants were Henry Dewhurst, of Dewhurst Houses, whose will is dated Nov. 16, 1762; John, son of Henry, bapt. Nov. 5, 1722, and godson of his uncle, John Dewhurst, of Cockhill, Hothersall; James Dewhurst; John Dewhurst, who left an endowment for a free school in Ribchester (see chapter x), and who was buried at Ribchester, July 7, 1771. Several direct descendants are living in Ribchester, among whom we may mention Edmund Dewhurst, Postmaster; and Charles Dewhurst, Church-street.

#### THE CROMBLEHOLMES, OF STYDD.

This ancient family figures prominently in the annals of Ribchester during the 15th and 16th centuries.

In 1432, William de Cromelholme is mentioned as chaplain, and Elias (or Ellis) Crombeholme was chantry priest from 1467 to

<sup>1</sup> Ribchester Register.

1492 (see pp. 78-9.) Robert Crombleholme was rector of Ribchester, 1466-1527; and his administrator, Richard Crombeholme was probably the Richard who settled at Stydd.

Richard Crombeholme, of Stydd, gent., was born about 1485; and in 1531 was party to a suit against the Abbot of Whalley;<sup>1</sup> and in 1537 opposed the claims of John Townley to certain lands in Dutton.<sup>2</sup>

Richard Crombeholme, of Stydd, gent., son of Richard, purchased in 36 Hen. viii (1545) of the Crown, for the sum of £231 15s. 7½d., certain lands in Huntingdon, (in Dutton), Bailey, Ribchester, Preston, etc., lately belonging to the Knight Hospitallers; among other tenements, mention is made of the "Fastandefelde," land at Boyes Bridge, "Stevenfelde," "Milne Cloughe Banke," "Kyrdenhouse;" and was sold subject to an annual rent of 19s. and the service of a twentieth part of a Knight's fee.<sup>3</sup>

At this time, Margaret, daughter of Robert Huddersall, gent., and apparently widow of a son of Richard Crombleholme, received from her father-in-law, a grant of six acres of land in Dutton.<sup>4</sup> In 1576, his son and heir, William, was living and died, "Apud Cromeleholme apud Dutton."<sup>5</sup> The father was living in 1574, as his name appears in the list of gentlemen in Blackburn Hundred required to find weapons for the general levy that year.<sup>6</sup>

Richard Crombleholme, son of William, by his wife Elizabeth, had a son Richard, born in 1581. At the inquisition held after his death in 1588, Richard Crombleholme was declared to have had lands in Dutton, Bayley, and Aghton, etc.<sup>7</sup>

In 1584, William Crombleholme, while on a visit to Sankey, of Sankey, near Warrington, was arrested along with his relative George Hothersall, as a Papist, and is imprisoned for fourteen days at Trafford Hall, and then in the Tower of London. He was put into "The Pit," 16 Oct., for two months and again in 1585.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Duc. Pleadings.*

<sup>2</sup> *Duc. Depositions*, xxvi., T 24.

<sup>3</sup> *Patent Roll*, part 27.

<sup>4</sup> *Inq. p.m.*

<sup>5</sup> *Inq. p.m.*

<sup>6</sup> *Harl. MSS.*, 2219.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 2085.

<sup>8</sup> Aqueport's *Conc. Eccl. Cath.*, and Rishton's *Diarium*.

Richard Crombleholme, of Stydd, gent., son and heir of Richard, succeeded to the estates. By his wives.....and Catherine, he had issue, sons, John, bapt. at Ribchester, Feb. 3, 1611; Matthew, bapt. at Ribchester, 18 Feb., 1621; Henry, bapt. Feb. 6, 1625; Roger, bapt. 12 June, 1626; Robert, bapt. 1 Sept., 1627; and daughters, Tryphema, bapt. 13 Jan., 1639; and Mary, bapt. 3 Apr., 1658. He was required to furnish "one muskett" for the Parliamentary forces in 1642. Richard Crombleholme died before 1664, in which year administration of his will was granted to his widow, Catherine.

John Crombleholme, of Stydd, gent., by his wife, Catherine, had a child buried "att Stid," Feb. 28, 1673. He was buried at Stydd, "May last," 1673; his widow surviving him.

Sherburne Crombleholme, of Stydd, gent., bapt. at Goosnargh, 2 Sept., 1657, was the eldest son of Richard Crombleholme, of Goosnargh, and possibly nephew of John. He had issue, sons, Richard, bapt. at Ribchester, July 3, 1682; Edward, bapt. at Stid, Oct. 2, 1683, died in 1702. His first wife, Elizabeth, was buried at Ribchester, July 5, 1691. By his father's will, proved in 1682, the family property in Goosnargh was left after the expiration of 99 years to Sherburne Crombleholme, and his heirs.<sup>1</sup> In 1701 (Oct. 1) he married at Ribchester, for his second wife, Rebeca Marsden, of Settle. About this time the Crombleholmes appear to have left Ribchester. In 1812, died Sherburne Crombleholme, of Little Marton, aged 87, and probably a descendant of the Crombleholme, of Stid.

The seat of the family was Huntingdon Hall, a large unpretentious farm-house, and is now the property of the Holts, of Stubbylee.

#### THE SHERBURNES OF BUCKLEY HALL.

The first member of this branch of the Sherburnes we can identify is Richard Sherburne, of Buckley, gent., who, in 3 Eliz., 1589, was party to an indenture made between himself, Robert Sherburne, of Thornley, gent., and Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., wherein, being minded to have his lands "hereafter of God's most blessed will and pleasure to bee established continue remaine and to bee in his name and bloud for ever," he strictly entailed

<sup>1</sup> Fishwick's *Goosnargh*, 175-8.

Buckley and other lands in Ribchester. The property of Richard Sherburne comprised 3 messuages, 2 cottages, 3 gardens, and 70 acres of land. A long and interesting description of the Sherburne estate is given in the Record Society's *Inquisitions*, from which the following summary is taken: Beginning at "Care Hey," following "the highway called Stonigate layne," and certain closes to "Kendall Heyes" (the inheritance of Henry Townley, of Dutton), thence to "Buckley" (Old Buckley farm); then from Turnley yate and at a highway called Chester lane or Chester gate," and certain closes to "dales Hey," "little Turnley," "long Turnley," and the "head land" to the highway called Chester gate.

Roger Sherburne, of Buckley, gent., son and heir of Richard, by his wife, Isabella, had issue, a son, Richard, born in 1599-1600; and a daughter, Katherine, bapt. Jan. 3, 1604. Roger Sherburne died at Ribchester, Oct. 16, 1605; his widow survived him.<sup>1</sup>

Richard Sherburne, of Buckley, gent., son and heir of Roger, by his wife, Alice (buried at Ribchester, Feb. 8, 1673), appears to have had no issue. He built the present Buckley Hall, as the following inscription in raised letters on the front of the house certifies:

NEW . BVCKLEY . IS . MY . NANE:  
RIC . SHERBVNE . BVILT . THE . SAME:  
ANNO . 1662. AGED . 62 :

By his will, dated 20 June, 1673, Richard Sherburne, gent., left all his lands to be divided into four parts (his slate delph at Buckley excepted) among his kinsfolk, Roger Crombleholme, James Benson, Ann Benson, and Richard and Tabitha Moodie. To Richard Sherburne, of Stonyhurst, Esq., he left his slate delph at Buckley, upon payment of £500 to Roger Crombleholme, etc.; and of £400 to his kinsman Sherburne Crombleholme. To his cousin, Alice Parkinson, wife of John Walkenden, £20; to Rich. Sherburne, Esq., and his wife; to his cousin, Ann Townley, wife of Robt. Edmondson, of Heigham; to his cousin, Katherine Lawde, wife of Christopher Parker, of Bredkirk; to his sister, Maude,

<sup>1</sup> Roger Sherburne, of Buckley, yeoman, by his will dated 11 Oct., 1605, mentions his wife Elizabeth, son Hugh, daughter Katherine, and

father-in-law William Turnley. It is not clear who this Roger Sherburne was.



wife of Thomas Seede, of Chesbanke, each a gold ring. Other bequests were: 5s. each to all godchildren; servants, 20s. each; his sister, wife of William Johnson, of Rawcliffe, 20s. for a ring; his cousin, Richard Crombleholme, a watch; his cousin, James Lawde, of Kirkham, 20s.; his cousin, Henry Turnley, 20s.; and his cousin, John Parkinson, of Dolphinholme, 20s. He desired to be buried in the quire at Chipping, "belonging to my cousin, Robert Sherburne, of Wolfehouse (my grandfather having been the owner of the said house)." The inventory, dated 14 Jan., 1674, amounted to £446.

About half-way between Ribchester and Longridge is Buckley Hall, built in the solid substantial style of the middle of the xviith. century, with mullioned windows and rude carvings. Its general appearance, is however, somewhat spoiled by a thick coating of whitewash.

John Sherburne was probably a son of John Sherburne, of Mitton. If he resided at Buckley Hall, it was only for a few years, as in 1698 he was living at Stid Hall, close to the church at Stydd. On the front of the house (now called Stydd Manor) is the following in raised letters:

ERECAT .

JOHN . SHERBURNE . 1698.

John Sherburne had issue a son.

John Sherburne, of Dutton, yeoman, had issue, a son, Richard. He was living at Ribchester in 1732.

Richard Sherburne, of Stydd, gent., who, by his wife, Winifrid, buried at Stydd, May 19, 1718), had issue a son, John.

Richard Sherburne, of Dutton, yeoman, had issue, a son, John, bapt. in 1764, and died young; and a daughter, Grace, bapt. Nov. 24, 1751. He was buried at Ribchester, July 7, 1771.

THE HOUGHTONS OF STYDD.

This branch of the Houghtons of Houghton Tower, was settled at "Smithbotham" in Stydd at the beginning of the seventeenth century. The first we meet with is George Houghton, of Stydd, gent., who had two daughters buried at Ribchester, Alice, May 7, 1618; and Elizabeth, May 31, 1618.

Edward Houghton, of Stydd, gent., possibly son of George, was a juror at several inquisitions in 1606. He had issue, a son

Edward; and a daughter Ellen, bapt. May 4, 1621. His wife was buried at Ribchester, Dec. 12, 1619; and on June 21, 1621, he himself was buried.

Edward Houghton, of Stydd, gent., son of Edward, was married twice, his first wife died in 1623, and his second in 1665. He had issue, sons, Edward, bapt. Aug. 1, 1624, and Rowland; and daughters, Elizabeth, Katherine, Alice, Mary, and Anne. Edward Houghton died in 1663, and was buried April 30th, at Ribchester.

Edward Houghton, of Stydd, gent., son of Edward, had issue, sons, William, bapt. Feb. 21, 1653; and Edward; and a daughter Elizabeth. Edward Houghton was buried at Ribchester, Mar. 29, 1697.

Anne Houghton, of Alston, spinster, by her will dated 17 Nov., 1634, desired to be buried in the church of Ribchester, "in the pue where her father was buryed, called Houghton pue or quire." She leaves a tenement held of Sir Gilbert Houghton, Bart., to Robert and Ann Cunliffe, and to the said Ann Cunliffe, "one red petticoat."

#### THE COTTAMS OF DILWORTH.

This ancient family had been resident in the district for many centuries, their name being frequently attached to deeds of the 14th and 15th centuries, but we cannot trace the descent of the family prior to 1613, when a pedigree was returned at St. George's Visitation. William Cottam was living in 1613, and had a son Lawrence, but beyond this we know nothing of him.

Lawrence Cottam, of The High House, gent., married Anne Brewer, of Brindle, and by her had issue, sons, John, who apparently died in his father's lifetime; Thomas; and Richard. He was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 17, 1619. His widow afterwards married William Ambrose, of Woodplumpton, gent. At the *inq. p. m.*, held in 1619, Lawrence Cottam was declared to be seized of a messuage and 16 acres of land in Dilworth, held of Sir R. Hoghton, in free and common socage.

Thomas Cottam, son and next heir of Lawrence, succeeded his father. He had issue, sons, Lawrence; Richard, bapt. at Ribchester, Aug. 7, 1609; William; and James; daughters, Elizabeth; and Jane bapt. April. 23, 1620. He was buried at Ribchester, Feb. 17, 1621; and at the inquisition held at his death, was

declared to have held of Sir R. Hoghton, a messuage and 60 acres of land in Dilworth. By his will dated 7, Feb. 1621, he left £11 to his son Lawrence; one-third to his wife, Jane; one-third to his younger children; and one-third to William, James, and Elizabeth, his children.

Lawrence Cottam, of The High House, gent., son and heir of Thomas, was 15 years old at the time of his father's death. He married at Ribchester, Sep. 15, 1627, Anne Burne, of Chipping,<sup>1</sup> and by her had issue, sons, Thomas, bapt. Jan. 30, 1629, buried Mar. 16, 1681; Henry, bapt. May 19, 1639; and Lawrence, daughters, Jane, bapt. Oct. 3, 1630; Alice, bapt. Nov. 2, 1634; and Jennett, bapt. June 24, 1636. He was a staunch Catholic, and with his wife and sons was fined for recusancy in 1667 and 1680. He died in 1682, and was buried Nov. 25, in the "mortuary" at Ribchester.

Lawrence Cottam, son and heir of Lawrence, married at Ribchester, June 27, 1675, Mary Fairclough, and by her had issue, sons, John; Cutborne [Cuthbert], bapt. July 7, 1678; Lawrence, bapt. at Ribchester, Feb. 30 [sic] 1686; and Samuel, bapt. April 7, 1689; and a daughter Jane, bapt. April 1, 1683. He died in 1733, his burial at Ribchester being recorded:—"Mar. 9, Lawrence Cottam, gent., de Dillworth." He was a non-juror in 1715, and registered his leasehold house in Ribchester, £27.

John Cottam, son of Lawrence, married at Ribchester, July 29, 1717, Elizabeth Cutler, of Chipping. About the middle of the century he seems to have left The High House for the neighbourhood of Preston, after which I have been unable to trace the descent of the family.

The High House, situated on the old high-road over the fell from Longridge to Clitheroe, is now a farm-house. It retains scarcely any of its old features.

#### THE COTTAMS OF KNOWLE GREEN.

This branch of the family was settled at Ribchester in the sixteenth century.

Ellis Cottam, of Ribchester, gent., had by his wife Elizabeth, a son John, and a daughter Grace. By his will, dated 30 Sep., 1577, he left all his lands to his wife for the education of his children during her life.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 247, where Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Radcliffe, is said

to have been the wife of Lawrence Cottam.

John Cottam, of Ribchester, gent., son and heir of Ellis, had issue, sons (whom we cannot identify), and a daughter, Margaret, bapt. Jan. 19, 1601. In 1625 he refused the order of knighthood. His burial is not recorded in the register.

Lawrence Cottam, of Ribchester, gent., probably grandson of John, married at Ribchester, June 3, 1675, Elizabeth Dickson, of Kirkham, and by her had issue, sons, Richard, bapt. Dec. 17, 1677; and John. He was fined for recusancy in 1680; and was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 10, 1718.

John Cottam, of Ribchester, gent., son of Lawrence, was convicted of recusancy, along with his wife, in 1716; and as a non-juror was returned as holding land in Dilworth, Ribchester, and Wrightington. He married at Ribchester, Feb. 7, 1715, Dorothy Alston, of Whalley, and by her had issue a son John.

John Cottam, of Ribchester, gent., was the last of the Ribchester family. He was living in Ribchester in 1787, but shortly afterwards his affairs seem to have become embarrassed, and he left the district.

The Cottam arms were: Gules chevron between three crescents, argent.

The old home of the Cottams is variously called Cottam Hall, Knoll Hall, and Dilworth Hall; its present name is the Manor-house, and is now used as a farm house. Situated close to the Independent Chapel at Knowle Green, its style of architecture denotes it to have been built in the xviith. century. The estate, after being the property of the Boardmans of Farington, now belongs to the Bashalls of Southport.

#### RHODES OF RIBCHESTER.

James Rodes, of Ribchester, gent., in 1558 complained that Richard Syngeltoune, Edmund Braydell, and others had, "with swordes, staves, daggers, and other foreyble weapons," assaulted and evicted him from his own premises, which he held under a long lease (dated 12 Dec., 1536) from Lawrence Preston, of Preston,<sup>1</sup> gent.<sup>2</sup>

John Rodes, probably son of James, in 1568 was plaintiff, as seized in fee, against Elizabeth, wife of Robert Milner, tenant at

<sup>1</sup> A farm in Ribchester still bears the name "Preston Wives."

<sup>2</sup> *Duchy Pleadings*, iii., R 11.

will, and Nicholas Talbot, a trespasser, defendants, in a suit to recover  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land in Ribchester. John Rhodes, of Ribchester, gent., occurs in a list of freeholders in 1584.

In 7 Eliz. (1566) John Rhodes sold his right in a messuage and mill, with lands, in Ribchester, now in the tenure of Roger Knoules, Margaret Sede, Agnes Dodhurst, and William Singleton, of Banck Hall, to Francis Holt, of "Grystelhurst," Esq.<sup>1</sup>

John Rodes, of Ribchester, gent., son of John, in 32 Eliz. (1590), was defendant against John Dewhurst, of Boyes House, gent., plaintiff, in a suit regarding a close of land in Ribchester called "Birdy banke." The dispute turned upon the exchange of a close called the "great meadow," which the defendant said was never completed. Reference is made to the plaintiff's "covetous and unconcionable mind," to the marriage of the plaintiff to Grace," cousin german of John Rhodes, in consideration of which marriage the plaintiff had received 20 marks. Mention is also made of certain lands called "Mutton Heis," occupied as tenant by Henry Grenehil, whose ancestors had lived there "tyme out of memory of man." John Rodes completed his long defence by denying the assertions of the plaintiff, that he (the defendant) was "very well knowne to be a man of bare consciens, loose life disposition and government ;" or had combined with his "dogged natured neighbours advanced from meane parentage to some credit" to "envy and malice the prosperous estate" of the plaintiff.<sup>2</sup> In the year 1600 John Rodes de Ribchester occurs in a list of freeholders."

John Roades, of Ribchester, gent., had issue a son John, who succeeded to the estates. He died 28 Jan., 1620, and was buried at Ribchester. At the *Inq. p. m.*, John Roades was declared to have held in fee messuages called "le halgh Ouse" and "le fforrest house;" 58 acres of land, and 2 orchards and gardens in Ribchester. He also held a messuage lately purchased from Henry Preston, of Preston, gent., deceased, and other lands.

John Roades, of Ribchester, gent., by his wife, Jane, had issue two daughters, Ellen, born Oct. 14, 1618; and Margaret, born Feb. 11, 1620. John Roades was buried at Ribchester, Feb. 9,

<sup>1</sup> Houghton MSS.

<sup>2</sup> *Duc, Pleadings*, 110, D5.



1623, aged about 33 years; and his daughters Ellen and Margaret were found to be his co-heirs.

Margery Rodes, of Ribchester, widow, by her will, dated 27 Aug., 1621, left: to the poor of Ribchester £20, to be paid by John Rodes; to Margaret Haihurst, daughter of her brother, Richard, "one flannell petticote;" to Elizabeth Cooper, widow, her sister, "one gown and 20s.;" to Margaret, wife of John Hayhurst, one "camerie" band; to Eme Rodes, Anne Rodes, John Rodes, and Mary Rodes, children of James Rodes, each 13s. 4d.

John Roades, of Ribchester, miller, was doubtless connected with John Roades, gent. He had issue, by his wife, Elizabeth Watson, sons, James, bapt. April 15, 1627; and Edward, bapt. Jan. 18, 1629; and a daughter, Eme, bapt. July 10, 1629 (see p. 85-6).

Other members of this family were: Francis Roades, living in 1670; Edward Roades (son of above John Roades), living in 1678; and Frances Roades, of Dilworth, widow, died in 1697. The name is still prevalent in the district.

The corn mill of the Rhodeses was probably at Lum Mill, where plenty of water power would be available. It is mentioned as early as 1397 (see p. 49).

#### THE RADCLIFFES OF DILWORTH.

This branch of the family was settled in the district at a very early period. The first member we can identify is Edward Radcliffe, of Dilworth, yeoman, whose son Henry, was aged 21 in 1617. By his wife Ann (who survived him) he had issue, sons, Henry; William; and Richard; and daughters, Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, and Jenet. By his will, dated 5 Feb., 1617, he left all his lands to his wife for four years "for payment of his debts and bringing up of his children," then to his wife for life, and then to his son Henry. To his second son, William, he left "5 closes of ground in Alston" for 10 years; and £6 each yearly to his five younger children for 10 years. He died 7 Feb., 1617, and was buried at Ribchester. At the *inq. p.m.*, he was declared to be seized in fee of 1 messuage, 1 cottage, and 16 acres of land in Alston, held of Sir R. Hoghton in fee and common socage, and worth 20s. per year.

Henry Radcliffe, eldest son and heir of Edward, was born about 1595, and by his marriage at Ribchester, Feb. 4, 1620, with Grace Rhodes, had issue, sons, Edward, bapt. May 4, 1623; and John, bapt. Sep. 19, 1624; and a daughter, Anne, bapt. Dec. 10, 1620. No entry occurs in the register of Henry Radcliffe's death; but he appears to have been succeeded by his son Edward, who had a son Edward, bapt. at Ribchester, April 22, 1655. The identity of the family then becomes obscured, to re-appear later on in the Alston branch of the family (see *post*.)

An enduring and interesting memento of the Radcliffes is "the written stone," which bears the following inscription:

RAVFFE RADCLIFFE LAID THIS STONE  
TO LYE FOR EVER. A.D. 1655.

Many accounts have been written of this stone, to which I need only refer here;<sup>1</sup> but merely observe that the Ribchester register contains the following entry of burial: "1655, Feb. 26, Raphe Radcliffe in Dillworth." <sup>2</sup> From his will, dated 20 Jan., 1655, Raph Radcliffe left, among other bequests, to Lawrence Cottam, High House, 20s.; his daughter Elizabeth, wife of the said Lawrence Cottam, £20; to his wife, "Catherine Walker," a close of 16 acres of land and a tenement called Hordsall barne, leased from Sir R. Hoghton, Bart. The inventory, which includes two spinning wheels and stocks valued at 5s., amounted to £144.

A stone slab in Ecclestone Church bears the following inscription:—"Here lyeth the Bodye of Richard Redcliffe, who was a payneful and profitable teacher at Heskin School xj years. Borne in Ribchester parish, and dyed September Ann. Dom. 1623, aged 33. Nil solidum." This young Ribchester worthy left to the school at Heskin, near Chorley, a small library of 80 volumes.

#### THE RADCLIFFES OF ALSTON.

This branch of the family sprung from Richard, younger son of Edward Radcliffe, of Dilworth.

Richard Radcliffe, of Alston, yeoman, had issue, sons, William, bapt. at Ribchester, April 2, 1658; and George.

George Radcliffe, of Alston, yeoman, son of Richard, married at Ribchester, Dec. 27, 1686, Margaret Parker, of Ribchester.

<sup>1</sup>*Stonyhurst Mag.*, Dec., 1887.  
*Hist. of Longridge*, 27-30.

<sup>2</sup>The entry also occurs under date,  
Feb. 26, 1654.

By her he had issue, a son, Robert, bapt. Apr. 8, 1688; and a daughter, Elizabeth, bapt. Feb. 5, 1693. In 1716 he was bailiff to Sir H. Hoghton. George Radcliffe was buried at Ribchester, Nov. 23, 1727.

Robert Radcliffe, of Alston, yeoman, son of George, married Elizabeth Kay at Ribchester, Sep. 7, 1717, and by her had issue, sons, George; William, bapt. Jan. 28, 1722; John, died young; and Richard; and a daughter, Margaret. Robert Radcliffe died in 1763, and was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 1, 1763, aged 75.

George Radcliffe, of Alston, yeoman, son of Robert, married at Ribchester, April 30, 1757, Margaret Carr, of Bolton by Bowland. The issue of this marriage were: sons, Richard, bapt. June 24, 1759; George; Robert, died aged 23; and Stephen Carr; and daughters, Agnes, died young; Ann; Elizabeth; Grace; and Margaret. George Radcliffe filled the post of churchwarden many years, and was buried at Longridge, July 24, 1791.

Richard Radcliffe, of Alston, yeoman, son of George, married Ann Ormerod, of Haslingden, 10 Nov., 1783, and by her had issue, sons, John, bapt. Aug. 6, 1786; and George, born 1791; and daughters, Ann Ormerod, died young; and Mary. Richard Radcliffe became steward to the Waltons of Marsden Hall, and lived at Marsden.

George Radcliffe, of Meadow Head, Alston, and of Blackburn, yeoman, second son of Richard, married Hannah Walker, daughter of Mr. Thomas Walker, of Walker Mill, near Rochdale, and by her had issue, sons, Richard; Thomas, born in 1822; George Walker, born in 1829, died July 1, 1842; Robert Carr, born 12 April, 1831; and Joseph Schofield, born in 1839 (many years in the Royal Engineers, subsequently of Greenhouse, Balderstone, where he died, aged 50, April 24, 1889); and daughters, Elizabeth, born in 1821, died in infancy; Lucy, born in 1825, married Mr. William Hopwood, and died, aged 30, August 11, 1855; Agnes, born in 1826, died in infancy; Margaret Eliza, born in 1833, died, aged 14, Jan. 7, 1848; and Hannah Schofield, born in 1836, died in infancy. For many years Mr. George Radcliffe lived in Blackburn, and for 35 years, from 1815 to 1849, filled the post of steward to Joseph Feilden, Esq., of Witton Park, lord of the manor of Blackburn. He died, aged 72 years, April 28, 1863, and was

buried at Longridge Parish Church. His widow, Hannah Radcliffe, died, aged 77 years, August 9, 1870.

Mr. Richard Radcliffe, eldest son of George, was a land surveyor in Blackburn, and died in October, 1874.

The two surviving sons of Mr. George Radcliffe, Mr. Thomas Radcliffe, of Blackburn, and Mr. Robert Carr Radcliffe, of Balderstone, are members of a well-known firm of solicitors in Blackburn. Mr. R. C. Radcliffe was appointed Clerk to the Guardians of the Blackburn Union, and continues to hold that office.

#### NORCROSSE OF RIBCHESTER.

This family was one of the oldest and most numerous in the parish. The first we can identify is,

James Norcrosse, of Ribchester, gent., who was one of the gentlemen who in 1625 declined the honour of knighthood. He had issue, sons, William, bapt. June 30, 1620; and James; and a daughter, Jane. His wife was buried at Ribchester, Mar. 6, 1633. James Norcrosse was living in 1638.

John Norcrosse, son of William (probably brother of James Norcrosse), bapt. Dec. 16, 1627, had issue, sons, William, bapt. Jan. 9, 1661; John; and Richard; and daughter, Judith; and Anne.

William Norcrosse, of Alston, yeoman, son of John, by his wife, Mary Heber (married at Goosnargh, Jan. 20, 1686), had issue, sons, John, born Mar. 4, 1689; Thomas, bapt. Mar. 17, 1694; William, born Nov. 25, 1700, died without issue; and Heber, died young; and daughters, Mary, bapt. Jan. 25, 1687, married John Singleton, of Dilworth, and grandmother of the late Richard Dixon, of Longridge; Elizabeth, wife of William Charnley; Martha; and Ann. By his will, dated 10 Sep., 1726, William Norcross left £100 each to his daughters, Ann, and Martha. His "lands of inheritance" were settled on his eldest son, and provision made for the other children; and his wife and youngest son were appointed executors. He was buried at Ribchester, Oct. 6, 1726.

John, the eldest son of William Norcrosse, became rector of Hothfield, and vicar of Willesborough, Kent. By his wife, Marian Marshall, he had issue two daughters, Elizabeth, died unmarried, 12 Jan., 1812; and Sarah, died unmarried, 27 Jan., 1812.

Thomas, the second son of William Norcrosse, by his wife, Mary Gardner, had issue, a daughter, who married one of the Corsers, of Whitechurch, to whom the Norcross estates (estimated in 1812 to be worth £30,000) descended.

#### THE NADENS OF HOTHERSALL.

Edmund Naden, of Hothersall, gent., by his wife, Jane (died Feb. 12, 1714), had issue, a son, Thomas; and daughters, Anne, died young; Ellen, wife of John Singleton; and Margaret, bapt. Nov. 23, 1656, wife of Thomas Singleton, of Dilworth. Edmund Naden was a leading man in Ribchester for over 30 years; was frequently churchwarden, and a member of the "gentlemen and xxiv." He was buried at Ribchester, Nov. 15, 1698.

Rev. Thomas Naden, of Hothersall, M.A., son of Edmund Naden, was educated at Manchester School, admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, 5 June, 1669, and was elected "Gregson" scholar in the same year, took his B.A. degree in 1672, and M.A. degree in 1676. From about 1690 until his death he seems to have lived at Hothersall, and to have taken an active part in local affairs. Mr. Naden was buried in Ribchester church Jan. 31, 1714. By his will, dated 20 April, 1712, he gave "for ever to the Master, Fellowes, and Scholars" of St. John's College, Cambridge, all his lands and tenements in Alston and Hothersall to found one Exhibition in the College. To his sister, Margaret Singleton, he left £5 *per annum* during her widowhood (if that ever happened), and his household goods, plate, rings, seals, and books. Other bequests were: To Anne Knowles, of Pagham, Sussex, £10; to Elizabeth Halsey, of Petersham, Surrey, £5, "to make up her loss for the death of an horse which I rode to Huntingdon." All the rest of his debts and ready money he left to found two Exhibitions in St. John's College. And he desired that each of these Exhibitions should be given to students in Divinity being no Fellows (but never two to one man) to hold the same until they are ten years standing in the University. Preference was to be given, first, to Sancrofts related to William Sancroft, D.D., late Archbishop of Canterbury (who had been Mr. Naden's patron); then to the issue of Sir John Stapley; then to the issue of his (the testator's) sisters; then to Nadens being kin to the testator's father, and lastly to men of the greatest merit born within the province of Canterbury.



The Master and Fellows of St. John's were appointed executors, with Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., as overseer.

From the date of the foundations until 1859 there were three exhibitions called "Mr. Naden's Exhibitions." In 1860, and in 1882, new regulations came into force with respect to these and other benefactions. Among the holders of the "Naden Scholarships" are the following :—Thomas Clarkson, the slavery abolitionist, elected 1784 ; Henry Martyn, the celebrated missionary, 1801 ; Rev. C. Pritchard, Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, 1829 ; Bishop Colenso, 1824 ; R. A. Proctor, the astronomist, 1858 ; and Dr. Taylor, the present Master of St. John's, 1863."<sup>1</sup>

The estates of Mr. Naden, consisting of 156 acres, were the Higher and Lower College farms ; and were sold in 1870 to the late Thomas Whittaker, Esq., of Walton-le-Dale. The purchase money (£7,485) was invested in the purchase of £8,124 Consols.

Margaret Singleton, in 1725, rented her brother's farms at a rental of £35 a year. Her husband, Thomas Singleton, of Dilworth, yeoman, was buried in Ribchester church, Aug. 13, 1722. Mrs. Singleton appears to have been displeased with her brother's disposal of the estate, and several of her letters are preserved at St. John's College.

#### THE TALBOTS OF CARR, WILPSHIRE.

From this branch of the Talbots of Salisbury are descended the Darwens of Ribchester.

George Talbot, of Carr, son of Stephen Talbot, was living in the year 1500.

Nicholas Talbot, of Carr, gent., son of George, married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Shuttleworth, of Gawthorpe, Esq. ; and secondly, Anne, daughter of Evan Browne, of Ribbleton, gent. He died April 28, 1547.

George Talbot, of Carr, gent., son and heir of Nicholas (by his second wife), married June 27, 1569, Ann, daughter of Roger Nowell, of Mearly, gent., and had a numerous issue. He was a burgess of Preston at the Guild of 1622, and died in 1629, aged 88.

<sup>1</sup> For this and other information I am indebted to Mr. R. F. Scott, the Bursar of St. John's.

John Talbot, of Carr, gent., son of George, married Dorothy, daughter of Edward Braddyll, of Portfield, Esq., and had sons, Edward; Thomas; and John. He was living in 1660.

Edward Talbot, of Carr, gent., married Mabel, daughter of Lawrence Carleton, and by her had, sons, George, and John.

George Talbot, of Carr, gent., married Ann, daughter of — Riley, of Church, and had, sons, Edward, died in Italy; and George, a doctor in New England; and daughters, Mary; and Katherine, married John Eden, of West Auckland. He died about 1708.

Mary Talbot married, firstly, John Parkinson, of Standerbar, and had issue, James, Mary, Dorothy, and Marjorie. Secondly, she married Robert Osbaldeston.

#### THE DARWENS OF CARR HALL, AND RIBCHESTER.

Mary Parkinson, granddaughter of George Talbot, married in 1714 Thomas Darwen, of Ribchester. The issue of this marriage were, sons, Henry; and John; and daughters, Margaret, who married Lawrence Peel; Juliana; and Dorothy, who married in 1762 Daniel Robinson, of Manchester, who had issue (among others) Juliana; and Margaret, bapt. at Ribchester, Sept. 11, 1767.

Henry Darwen, son of Thomas, lived at Carr until, suspicion falling upon him as a Catholic, his removal to Langley, co. Essex. In June 1743, a two-handled gold cup, "doubtless of Roman workmanship," found on the banks of the Ribble, was said to be "in the possession of Mr. Henry Darwent, shopkeeper, in Ribchester."

John Darwen, second son of Thomas Darwen, married Ann Ormerod, and died without issue, and was buried at Ribchester, Dec. 31, 1792. His widow was buried at Ribchester, Dec. 26, 1796.

The Darwens were staunch Catholics; and adherents of the Stuarts, in whose cause they suffered considerably.

The Carr estate is now the property of the Petre family.

#### THE ENTWISTLES OF RIBCHESTER.

Edward Entwistle, of Ribchester, gent., son of George Entwistle, of the parish of Blackburn, was bapt. at Ribchester, Sept. 8, 1700. He married Jane, eldest daughter of Henry Townley, of Dutton, gent., and by her had issue, sons, Townley, bapt. at Ribchester,

April 9, 1734; John, bapt. Feb. 5, 1736, buried at Ribchester, Jan. 31, 1741; and Edward, "Rec<sup>d</sup> into the ch.:" Feb. 25, 1740; and a daughter, Anne, bapt. at Ribchester, Mar. 8, 1732, afterwards wife of William Pye, of Ribchester, gent. (see *post*.)

Edward Entwistle and his wife inherited Dutton Hall and a portion of the estate. He died in 1776, aged 75, and was buried at Ribchester, March 28th; his widow survived him more than twenty years, being buried at Ribchester, Jan. 1, 1800, at the advanced age of 93 years. Some correspondence between the Entwistles and their daughter, wife of William Pye, for some years excise officer at Wilmslow, in Cheshire, has been preserved.<sup>1</sup> Writing Mar. 26, 1756, Edward Entwistle, jun., refers to a "fever hereabouts which has taken off some few people." In 1757 Townley Entwistle is said to "be fixt at Haslingden, and he and his bedfellow are very hearty;" that "cousin G. Radcliffe is married to one Miss Carr of Bolton in Bolland, a pretty good fortune." In 1760, "Sister Ward," wife of Mr. Henry Ward, is mentioned as living at Preston.

Townley Entwistle, of Haslingden, surgeon, eldest son of Edward Entwistle, by his wife, Ann Baldwin, had issue, daughters, Anne, wife (1) of Henry Gearvise, of Haslingden, surgeon, and (2) of John Sefton; Agnes, wife (1) of Charles Leigh, of Bolton, gent., and (2) of John Fell, of Manchester; and Jane, wife of Thomas Padget, of Manchester, merchant, and died Oct. 9, 1804. Townley Entwistle is said to have been killed by a fall from his horse, and was buried at Ribchester, Sep. 18, 1779.

Edward Entwistle, of Ribchester, gent., youngest son of Edward, lived at Ribchester to a very advanced age, and was buried there Dec. 16, 1828, in the 89th year of his age. On the death of his mother, 30 Dec., 1800, he became entitled, along with his brother-in-law, William Pye, to a sum of £500 charged upon the Dutton Hall estate. He does not appear ever to have been married.

#### THE PYES OF RIBCHESTER.

This family settled in Ribchester in the year 1723, living at Buckley Hall, the old residence of the Sherburnes. John Pye, of Buckley, gent., by his wife, Hannah (who was buried at Ribchester,

<sup>1</sup> For the perusal of which I am indebted to Mr. George Pye, Radcliffe Hall, Chipping.

Nov. 4, 1766), had issue, sons, James; William, bapt. May 27, 1733; and George, bapt. Feb. 16, 1735; and daughters, Ellen, bapt. at Ribchester, Nov. 24, 1728, and wife of James Berry; and Ann, bapt. July 4, 1736, and wife of John Charnley. In 1759 John Pye was in possession of lands and tenements known as "Wilfords;" Moorfield; and Bradley Lee, in Ribchester; and leased several other farms in and near Buckley Hall.<sup>1</sup> By his will, dated 8 June, 1758, he left to his eldest son, James (who seems to have been provided for in his father's lifetime), one shilling; to his youngest son, George, £8; to his daughters, two guineas apiece; to his wife, all his interest in Francis Green house for her life; and the rest of his property to his second son, William, and youngest son, George; the two last-named sons, and his "very good friend and kinsman," George Ratcliffe, of Alston, being appointed executors. John Pye died 24 Oct., 1763, aged 78, and was buried at Ribchester.

James Pye, of Buckley Hall, gent., eldest son of John, by his wife, Elizabeth Dewhurst, of Blackburn, had issue, a son, Henry, bapt. May 15, 1760, buried at Ribchester, Feb. 16, 1762. His wife was buried at Ribchester, Aug. 27, 1786. James Pye was buried at Ribchester, March 15, 1793, aged 71 years. In 1790 was advertised to be sold by auction, at the house of Mr. John Alston, the sign of the Grey Horse, Ribchester, the freehold and leasehold estates of Mr. James Pye. The lots were: Wilford's tenement, with four acres of land in the possession of Mr. James Pye; three cottages in Ribchester; and a tenement in Hothersall called Bradley-lee. The leaseholds were held under the Duchess Dowager of Norfolk, Thomas Weld, Esq., Thomas Walmesley, Esq., Edward Warren, Esq., and Lady Elizabeth Warren.

William Pye, of Ribchester, gent., second son of John Pye, married Jan., 26, 1755, Ann, daughter of Edward Entwistle, of Ribchester, gent. He had issue, a son, John Townley, born in 1772, died at Ribchester, 7 Dec., 1795; and daughters, Jane, bapt. Mar. 26, 1756, and married Mr. Alston, of Ribchester; and Anne, bapt. Feb. 10, 1760. About 1755 William Pye became excise officer at Wilmslow, and held this appointment until 1766. From the correspondence which passed between him and his rela-

<sup>1</sup> Family papers.

tives we glean the following information: Writing under date Apr. 22, 1756, his wife informed him that she was "brought in bed the Saturday after you left Ribchester of a daughter, and we call her Jane. . . Mr. Peel has left Lancaster and is gone to an 'out rider' in Yorkshire." In October his parents sent him "a brase of hares that was killed this morning." Later on were sent "a pair of Bronan's Rules" bought of Mr. Radcliffe "for no less than 3s. 6d.;" and the absent husband was informed that his daughter is a fine child, "and misses the small pox," then prevalent in the town. The death of "Aunt Wall" on 15 Nov., 1756, and a visit to Edinburgh by Townley Entwistle "for improvement," are among the chief items of news. Early in the following year William Pye writes, urging his wife to come to Wilmslow, telling her to bring "all her clothes and necessaries," and two beds, if possible, "as in this town (Wilmslow) there is nothing to be had." In 1795 George Pye (William's brother) writes to them about a new farm his father had taken, and which was costing a good deal of money to stock, owing to cattle being "very dear." At this time the mother, Elizabeth Pye, seems to have been living with her eldest son, James, at Buckley—the father occupying Francis Green—and the older brother, George, complains because James had forbid him the house owing to their mother having given him (George) "some drink." On his return to Ribchester about 1770, William Pye purchased lands in Hother-sall from Mr. and Mrs. Phipps, and leased lands in Ribchester from Thomas Weld, Esq. His wife, Ann, died Dec. 2, 1787, aged 56, and was buried at Ribchester. William Pye died in the 70th year of his age, and was buried Sep. 30, 1803. By his will,<sup>1</sup> dated Sep. 19, 1803, he left his property in trust for his daughter, Jane Alston, of Ribchester; "and (the testator continues) as for the part of Ribchester church called Dutton choir lately purchased by me from Richard Walmesley, Esq., deceased,<sup>1</sup> . . . they (the trustees) shall permit and suffer my children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren, and their heirs, for ever, to resort thither and use the same for Divine Worship;" and any dispute arising thereto "shall be decided by the clergyman for the time being;" and appointed Rev. R. Parkinson, vicar of Longridge, and Mr. John Pye, his nephew, executors. At the sale of William Pye's effects

<sup>1</sup>See page 94.



was "a pan" sold to Mr. Quartley (vicar of Ribchester), £3; and 174lb. cheese, £4 2s. 6d.

George Pye, youngest son of John Pye, had issue, a son, John; and daughters, Hannah, wife of Thomas Makinson, of Alston; and Sally, wife of John Swarbrick. George Pye resided at Chipping, and was buried at Ribchester, Oct. 21, 1804, died there. The present representative of the family is Mr. George Pye, Radcliffe Hall, Chipping.

#### THE WARDS OF WARD HALL.

Richard Warde, of Ribchester, gent., was a freeholder in the county Palatine in 1600. He died before 1609, and was succeeded by his son.

John Warde, of Ribchester, gent., who was a juror at the *inq. p. m.* of Richard Walmesley, of Showley, gent., held 1609-10, had issue, a son, Roger, who died in his father's lifetime, Jan. 26, 1619. In 1625 John Warde was included in the list of gentlemen who declined the "honour" of knighthood, and paid a fine of £10.

John Ward, of Ribchester, gent. (probably a younger son of John Ward), was living in 1678.

John Ward, of Ribchester, gent., son of John Ward, married at Ribchester, Nov. 10, 1705, Anne Haddock, of Ribchester. The issue of the marriage were, sons, Richard, bapt. July 6, 1712; John, bapt. June 20, 1714; and Lawrence, died young; and a daughter, Elizabeth. John Ward, gent., died at Ribchester, and was buried Oct. 19, 1720.

Ward Hall, a spacious house erected in the 16th century, was pulled down early in the century. The present building is used as a farm house, and is the property of Thomas Rymer, Esq., of Manchester.

#### THE ALSTONS OF ALSTON.

Thomas Alston, of Alston, yeoman, by his wife, Jane, had issue, sons, Richard; William; and Robert; and a daughter, Anne. By his will, dated 11 Aug., 1617, he left to Anne, wife of his son Richard, one silver spoon; to Henry Banks, of ffullwood, 13s. 4d.; to John Banks, of Croston, his grandchild, 6s. 8d.; and to his son Robert, a house and three acres of land in Alston. Thomas Alston was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 23, 1618.

Richard Alston, of Alston, yeoman, son of Thomas, by his will, dated 24 Oct., 1628, left to his brothers, William and Robert, £10 each; to John Skerrow, £10; remainder to Anne, his wife, who was appointed executor. The inventory amounts to £272 4s. 6d. Richard Alston was buried at Ribchester, Oct. 30, 1628.

#### THE SEEDS OF LOFTSHAW, RIBCHESTER.

Hugh Seed, of Loftshaw, yeoman, by his wife, Frances Sherdley, had issue, sons, Robert, bapt. May, 26, 1622; John; and Thomas; and daughters, Ellen; and Anne. By his will, dated 15 Dec., 1639, Hugh Seed appointed his wife and son, Robert, executors.

Robert Seed, of Loftshaw, son of Hugh Seed, had issue, a son, Edward, bapt. April, 24, 1655. He was buried at Ribchester, June 18, 1668.

Edward Seed, of Loftshaw, had issue, sons, Thomas; John, bapt. Jan. 1, 1684; and Richard, bapt. June 10, 1694; and a daughter, Anne. Edward Seed was buried at Ribchester, April 8, 1716.

Thomas Seed, of Loftshaw, by his wife, Ellen Hesmondhalgh, had issue, sons, Edward, bapt. April 21, 1717; William; and John.

Edward Seed, of Loftshaw, son of Thomas Seed, had issue, sons, Edward, bapt. May 20, 1757; and Charles.

After this date I am unable to identify the members of this name, many of whose descendants are still living in the parish. Loftshaw, or Loftshay, is the name of a farm a little to the north of Knowle Green.

#### THE SEEDS OF SEED GREEN, RIBCHESTER.

John Seed, of Seed Green, yeoman, by his wife, Anne, sister of Hugh Seed, of Chesbancks, had issue, sons, Thomas; and Richard; and a daughter, Ellen. By his will, dated April 1, 1617, he left his messuage to his wife and eldest son, Thomas; and "all tithes of corn" to his daughter. He was buried in Ribchester church, June 26, 1617.

Thomas Seed, of Seed Green, was a member of the "gentlemen and xxiv." in 1638. This may have been the Thomas Seed who was convicted of recusancy 5 Chas. I. (1630). He died Oct. 7, 1667.

John Seed, of Seed Green, son of Thomas, had issue, sons, Henry; and Sherburne; and a daughter, Anne. About this time the descent of this very numerous family becomes most confused.

#### THE SEEDS OF CHESBANCKS, RIBCHESTER.

Hugh Seed, of Chesbancks, yeoman, brother-in-law of John Seed, of Seed Green, by his will, dated Feb. 15, 1612, left to Thomas, his eldest son, "4 great arkes, one great chest, one pair of bed stocks, one brass pot, and two pewter dishes." His other children by his wife, Janet, were, John; Henry; Richard; and Alice. The inventory of his goods amounted to £147.

Thomas Seed, of Chesbancks, yeoman, was a member of the "gentlemen and xxiv." in 1638. He married Maude, sister of Richard Sherburne, of Buckley, gent.

#### THE BOURNS OF DILWORTH.

Henry Bourn, of Dilworth, yeoman, by his wife, Mary, had issue, a son, John, bapt. Feb. 5, 1717; and daughters, Margaret, wife of Thomas Greenwood; Anne, wife of Lawrence Greenwood; Anne, died young; Jane, wife of Thomas Drinkwater; and Mary, wife of John Greenwood. By his will, dated 10 Jan., 1744, Henry Bourn left legacies to his daughters; to his nephew, John Townley, £10; to his wife "£6 yearly of and from Ratcliff's Land and Ratcliffe House to live in;" and to his son, John, all his lands. Henry Bourn was buried in Ribchester church, Feb. 8, 1744.

John Bourn, of Dilworth, yeoman, had issue, sons, Nicholas, bapt. Sep. 24, 1752; and John; and a daughter, Margaret. The existing farm house in Written-stone-lane was built by John Bourn. He died, aged 73, and was buried at Ribchester, Feb. 21, 1780.

Nicholas Bourn, of Dilworth, yeoman, married Martha Carter, Aug. 23, 1780. Other members of this family are, William Bourn, buried at Ribchester, April 1843, aged 89; and Anne, his wife, died in 1845, aged 95 years.

The present representatives are, Mr. William Bourn, owner and occupier of Written-stone farm; Mr. William Bourn, Radcliffe cottage, Dilworth; Mr. William Bourn, Grimsargh; and Mr. William Bourn, Corporation Arms, Longridge.

#### THE WALKERS OF ALSTON.

William Walker, of Alston, cavalier, born in 1613, was buried at Ribchester, Jan. 16, 1736, aged 122 years. He was in the







WILLIAM WALKER,  
*Cavalier de Alston, aetat 122.*



Royal Service at the battle of Edge Hill, was wounded in the arm, and had two horses shot under him. Dr. Whitaker says: "At the church of Ribchester was interred, in all probability, the last survivor of all who had borne arms in the war between Charles I. and the Parliament. . . . How long he retained his faculties I do not know; if nearly to the close of life he must have been a living chronicle, extremely interesting and curious."<sup>1</sup>

No entry of baptisms in the year 1613 are now to be seen in the register; but the name was a common one in the district at the time. The following entry may refer to William Walker: "Bapt. 1635, Dec. 25, Anne, the daughter of Will<sup>m</sup>. Walker." A painting of William Walker (a copy of which fronts this page), is in Tabley Hall, Cheshire. He is described as wearing "his own hair; large beard; great coat; with a walking-stick in his left hand."<sup>2</sup>

#### THE WALMESLEYS OF RIBCHESTER.

Richard Walmesley, of Francis Greene, yeoman, in 1598 sold to Richard Walmesley, of Showley, gent., his freehold inheritance called "ffrance green," containing seven acres of land, bounded by the lands of Robert Byrley, John Rodes, Richard Marsden, gent., and the "enclosure" lately made by Richard Walmesley, yeoman.<sup>3</sup> At the *inq. p. m.* of Richard Walmesley, of Showley, gent., held in 1610, Francis Green farm was still occupied by Richard Walmesley, of Ribchester. On Oct. 2, 1620, Alice Walmesley de ffrances Greene was buried at Ribchester.

In 1596, Robert Walmesley, of Ribchester, son and heir apparent of Alexander Walmesley, of Elston, yeoman, sold to Richard Walmesley, of Showley, gent., a certain close of land in Ribchester, called Dutton Croft, in the occupation of William Huthersall.<sup>4</sup>

Although large landowners in the parish, and closely identified with much of its history, the Walmesleys of Showley were not resident in Ribchester, so that no detailed account of the family is given here. Mr. W. A. Abram has very carefully traced the descent of this branch of the Walmesleys.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. of Richmondshire*, ii., 465.

<sup>2</sup> *Cat. Eng. Heads*, 1748.

<sup>3</sup> Original family deeds.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Hist. of Blackburn*, 458-60.

## THE FOXES OF OXENDALE.

This family, who are invariably described in the registers as "of Ribchester," really belonged to Blackburn parish. William ffox, of Goosnargh, purchased the Oxendale estate in 1714, from the Osbaldestons, of Oxendale.<sup>1</sup>

His son John, who succeeded to the estate, by Ellen, his wife, had issue, sons, William, bapt. May 9, 1720; and Christopher, bapt. Sep. 20, 1724; and daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Alston, of Ribchester; Alice, wife of Robert Slater, of Whittingham; and Sarah. John Fox died in 1753, and was buried at Blackburn, Aug. 29th. By his will, dated Aug. 25, 1753, he made provision for his wife and children, and left Oxendale to his son and heir, William.

William Fox, of Oxendale Hall, gent., by his wife Nancy, had issue, a daughter, Betty, wife of Christopher Wilkinson, of Ribchester, apothecary. He was buried in Ribchester church, Dec. 22, 1801; his wife was also buried in Ribchester church, Mar. 14, 1791. This tombstone (barely legible) is in what was formerly the Dutton choir. By his will, dated July 3, 1801, William Fox left his estate upon trust to the use of his grandson, William Fox Wilkinson.

Oxendale Hall, in the township of Osbaldeston, is, says Mr. Abram, "a quaint looking old house of the 17th century, with a wide frontage, with four gables on the roof line, and a gabled porch in the centre bay. Over a low, arched doorway the lintel is inscribed with the date '1656,' and initials 'L.R.O.' (Lawrence and Rosamond Osbaldeston.) On the leaden easing pipe at the side of the porch are the letters 'W.F.' (William Fox) and the date 1763."<sup>2</sup> The property now belongs to Messrs. J., E., and J. Dugdale, of Blackburn.

## DEWHURST, OF ALSTON.

This family returned a pedigree at Dugdale's Visitation, in 1664-5.<sup>3</sup>

Robert Dewhurst, of Alston, gent., married Catherine, daughter of Sir Richard Houghton, of Houghton, knt., and by her had issue, sons, John, bapt. at Ribchester, Mar. 30, 1602; William; and Robert; and daughters, Anne, wife of Benjamin Eccles; and Elizabeth, wife of John Crook, of Preston. Robert Dewhurst died in 1623, and was buried at Ribchester, 3 September.

<sup>1</sup> Abram's *Hist. of Blackburn*, 610.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 611.

<sup>3</sup> *Chet. Soc.*, lxxxiv., 97.

John Dewhurst, of Alston, gent., eldest son and heir of Robert, married Anne, daughter of Ralph Walkden, and had issue, sons, Robert, born about 1637; John; and William; and daughters, Katherine, wife of Robert Willacy, of Alston; and Jane, wife of Ellis Slater, of Alston. John Dewhurst died before 7 April, 1665.

Robert Dewhurst, of Alston, gent., married Frances, daughter of Edward Wood, of Clayton, and by her had a daughter, Anne. All trace of the family now seems to be lost.

#### GREENALL OF DUTTON.

The Greenhells or Greenhalls have long been settled in the parish of Ribchester.<sup>1</sup> The first whose name we have found is John Greenhells, who had a son Robert, bapt. at Ribchester, April 28, 1634; and a daughter Anne, buried Jan. 16, 1662.

Robert Greenall, of Dutton, had a son William, bapt. in 1657.

William Greenall, of Dutton, had a son Richard, bapt. at Ribchester church, Sep. 10, 1693.

Richard Greenall, of Dutton, son of William, was a feltmaker and hat manufacturer. He married at Ribchester, Sep. 10, 1721, Mary Slater, of Ribchester, and by her had issue, sons, Robert, bapt. Sep. 9, 1722; and Henry, bapt. Feb. 19, 1727; and a daughter Anne, bapt. Nov. 1, 1724. In 1752, Richard Greenall paid 2s. on nine windows for the window tax.

Robert Greenall, of Dutton, succeeded his father Richard in the business. He had a son Richard, bapt. at Ribchester, Mar. 8, 1751.

Richard Greenall, son of Robert, continued the business of hat making. He died at Moor Nook, Dutton, April 30, 1826, aged 75; and was succeeded by his son,

Robert Greenall, born in 1778, who was also a hat manufacturer. He died at Manor House, Dutton, April 30, 1854.

Henry Greenall, brother of Robert, was Agent for the late Mr. Fenton, lord of the manor of Bailey, Dutton, and Ribchester.

<sup>1</sup> In 1599, Richard Greenall, of Blackburn parish, married Elizabeth Boulton, of Ribchester. And in 1590 the ancestors of Henry Grenehil are

stated to have lived at Mutton Heyes "tyme out of memory of man (see p. 245).

Robert Greenall, of Dutton, son of Robert, succeeded his uncle Henry as Agent for the Fenton estates. Mr. Greenall is Agent for several other estates, is a member of "the xxiv," and has filled the office of churchwarden, at Ribchester for twenty years in succession. He has several children.

#### LUND OF RIBCHESTER.

This family has been connected with Ribchester parish from a remote date, as yeomen. The later generations of the family settled in Blackburn.

Edward Lund, of Ribchester, yeoman, about the middle of the XVIIIth century, purchased from Richard Ward a farm close to Francis Green, in Ribchester. This tenement he sold to Henry Townley, who, in 1677, leased it for £12 a year to John Ward. This Edward Lund was ancestor of

Richard Lund, who removed to the neighbourhood of Blackburn some time before 1760. He married Sarah Eccles, of Sunnyhurst, Over Darwen, by whom he had issue, sons, Thomas; James; and John. He was accidentally drowned at Lytham, about the year 1677; a sermon preached on the occasion of his death was printed.

Thomas Lund, eldest son of Richard, lived at Whinney Lane, near Blackburn; and in 1810 commenced cotton spinning at Wensley Fold. By Margaret, his wife (who died in June, 1833), he had issue, sons, Richard (see below); Thomas; Robert; John; James; William; and Joseph. Thomas Lund died, aged 73, Feb. 22, 1830.

James Lund, second son of Richard, and brother of Thomas, born in 1759, was a calico manufacturer in Blackburn, and lived at Pleasington. He died in 1797, in his 39th year. By his wife, Alice Smalley, he had issue, a son, Richard, born in 1796.

Richard Lund, son of James, married Alice Holt (she died in 1839), and had two sons, John; and Thomas (died in 1875). He died, aged 69, in 1865.

Richard Lund, eldest son of Thomas, married Miss Astley, and was father of the late Rev. Thomas Lund, B.D., Rector of Brindle.

John Lund, of Blackburn, eldest son of Richard, born in October, 1823, served the office of Mayor of Blackburn in 1881-2, and was for many years a Councillor and Alderman of the borough. He is also a borough magistrate. He married, in 1863, Maria, daughter of the late Mr. James Caughey, of Blackburn. His mother was descended from another Ribchester family, the Greenwoods, one of whom, John Greenwood, yeoman, purchased, in 1744, from Roger Ward, of Ward Hall, a farm in Ribchester, which was inherited by Mr. John Lund, J.P., and is still his property.

## CHAPTER XII.

*Miscellany.*

## KNOWLE GREEN CHAPEL.



HIS handsome chapel, belonging to the Congregationalists, was erected in 1861 by subscription, and will seat about 300 people. Thirty years previously a chapel (now used as a school) was built mainly through the efforts of Mr. W. Hayhurst, of Blackburn, who for upwards of twenty years conducted the services. In 1858, the Rev. Giles Scott was appointed minister, and soon became known as one of the most indefatigable workers in the county. In 1873, Mr. Jesse Haworth, of Bowdon, gave land to enlarge the burial ground. Mr. Scott, who was born in 1813, formerly ministered at Clitheroe and Walker Fold, and held services at Longridge prior to 1865, retired early in 1890, and is now living at Ilkley. On Dec. 25, 1888, Mr. Scott received a purse of gold and an illuminated address from his friends and congregation.

## RIBCHESTER BRIDGE.

Considerable doubt exists as to the antiquity of a bridge over the Ribble at Ribchester. Whitaker conjectures that in "later times" it was within the manor of Osbaldeston, and so far below the present bridge. In 1669, the old bridge (when erected is uncertain) between the townships of Ribchester and Clayton-le-Dale, was replaced by the bridge, which, in 1772, was washed down by a flood. In 1769, tenders were invited for the rebuilding of the County Bridge called Ribchester Bridge. The present bridge was built in 1774. In April, 1681, a precept was issued by the County Justices of the Blackburn Hundred for the sum of £110 to repair the "common and public bridge" called Ribchester Bridge, between the market towns of Lancaster and Rochdale. Ribchester and Dutton contributed the sum of £7.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MS. in the possession of Miss Veevers, of Crumpsall.



## RIBCHESTER FERRY.

Ferry-boats for conveying persons across the river Ribble have been in use for many centuries. In 28 Ed. iii. (1355) Adam Bibby, of Ribchester, granted William de Bradeley, "fferiman," the right to carry "men and women" by boat across the Ribble. Right was also retained to build a bridge "of wood or stone," *quod bene liceat Rectori Ecclesiæ de Ribchester vel Dno dñ Osbaldeston*.<sup>1</sup> In 1712, in a valuation of lands and tenements in Osbaldeston, mention is made of "Pinder's tenem't w'thin Ribchester, with the boate he pays £1 5s. p' ann' and I think 7s. to another, and he repairs the boat over and above the s'd sums. But when a new boat is wanting, Master Osbaldeston builds one at his own charge,"<sup>2</sup> so that the land was considered to be worth very little. The Ferry now belongs to F. Openshaw, Esq., of Hothersall Hall.

## COURT LEET ROLLS.

Unfortunately the records of the Court Leet of the manor of Ribchester only date back to 1821. From that year down to 1835, fines were regularly imposed, of which a few examples may be given. Fines of 15s., 10s., and 5s. were levied on each horse, cow, or pig found pasturing in the lanes; defaulting jurors had to pay 1s. each; dangerous bridges were ordered to be repaired; the surveyor of highways was amerced in a penalty of 20s. for neglecting to repair the pinfold, or common pound. In 1828, the jury presented "that John Boothman has been in the habit of keeping a gambling-house within the manor," and directed "the Constable to seize his gambling-tables, and put a stop to such unlawful acts to the utmost of his powers."<sup>3</sup> The present lord of the manors of Dutton and Ribchester is James Fenton, Esq.

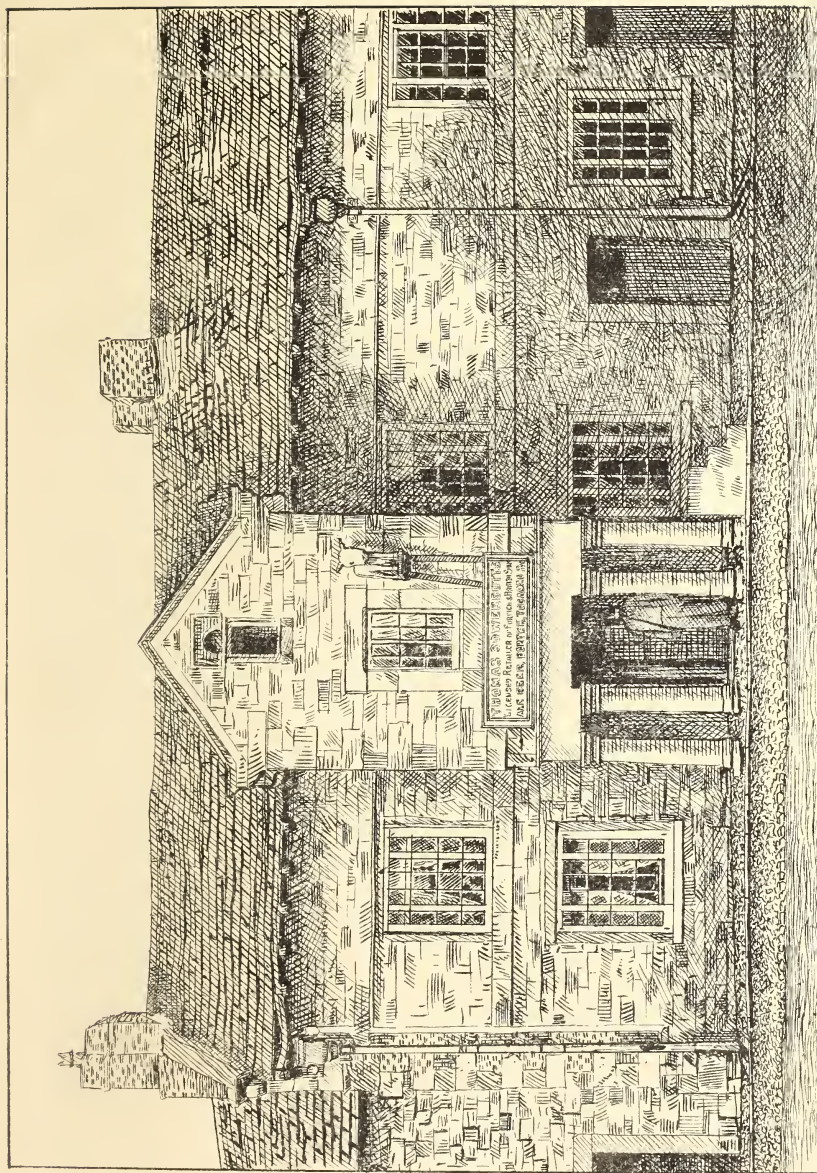
## WHITE BULL INN.

This house, formerly used as the "Court House" of Ribchester, has a very ancient look, as may be gathered from the illustration which fronts this page. The four pillars supporting the porch are said to be of Roman date, and to have been dug out of the Ribble (see p. 14). On the spouting is cut: I.A.I., 1747 (James and Jane Alston); and on the face of the stone step: J. H. A.,

<sup>1</sup> Towneley MS.S., O. O.

<sup>2</sup> *Lanc. and Ches. Antiq. Notes*,  
ii., 23.

<sup>3</sup> From the records in the possession  
of James Fenton, Esq.



J. Miller, Lith., Preston.

WHITE BULL INN, RIBCHESTER.



1750 (John and Ann Hall). There are also rude representations of a fox and the sun on the woodwork.

#### MOOR COCK INN.

Situate close to Mr. Fenton's shooting box in Dutton, this Inn has over the door what seems to be meant for a face or the rising sun, with the inscription, B.B., 1775 (Benjamin Bulcock).

#### ANCIENT CROSSES.

Stone crosses were formerly very numerous in the parish, but in many cases the base alone remains, and often even that is gone. In Stydd churchyard; near Written-stone lane; at Pinfold; and in Gallows Hill lane, are remains of old crosses.



## Appendix A.

A TERRIER OF THE GLEBE LANDS, TITHES, AND OTHER DUES AND REVENUES BELONGING TO THE VICARAGE OF RIBCHESTER, 8 APRIL, 1828.

One Vicarage house, consisting of three bays of building with an out cast on the North side, namely, one chamber, one kitchen, and one milk-house; one barn and stable of three bays with an out cast at the East end of it; two small bays of building for other offices; one garden or orchard sixty-four yards in length, lying on the North side.

Tithe hay and corn in kind through the township of Dutton; tithe corn in kind through the township of Stidd, except Stidd Hall which pays annually three shillings and one penny due every Easter, except likewise Smithbottom lands which pay annually five shillings due every Martinmas day. (Then follow Easter and Michaelmas dues, as enumerated on pages 90-1), with the following additions:—

Besides these dues the Vicar has the herbage of the Churchyard; and an annual salary from the Bishop of Chester for the time being of thirteen pounds, six shilling, and eightpence, payable half-yearly. Mortuaries are due throughout the parish, and payable according to the Statute 2 Hen. VIII. Ten shillings are due for a funeral sermon, but if on a chosen text twenty shillings.

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EARLY WAYS OF SPELLING NAMES OF TOWNSHIPS IN THE PARISH.

RIBCHESTER—Ribelcastre, Ribbecestria, Ribbechastre, Ribbelcester, Ribbilcestre, Ribblecestre, Ribilcester, Ribbilcastr', Ribelcesta, Ribblecester, Ribilcheester, Rybcheester, Rybcheestre, Ribbelcestria, Ribelcester, Rybcestria, Ribylcheester, Rybbelcestre.

ALSTON—Actun, Alsdan, Howston.

DILWORTH—Dylleword, Dilleworth, Dillworth, Dileworthe, Dylleworth.

DUTTON—Invariably spelt "Dutton."

HOTHERSALL—Hadreshall, Hedreshall, Hudersall, Hodiersale, Hodresall, Huddleshale, Hodreshale, Hordishall, Huthersall.

STRYDD—"Le Stede," Steyd, Stead, Steed, Steyde, Sted, Stid, Stidd.

## Appendix B.

### FINES FOR RESCUSANCY.

A summary of the papers<sup>1</sup> referring to the estates of persons fined for rescusancy in 1716 may be interesting. I select the case of Richard Bilsborrow, of Alston, husbandman (see p. 63). From the depositions of George Radcliffe and William Norcrosse, made 25 Sep., 1716, we gather that the estate of Richard Bilsborrow, situate in Ribchester parish, was held on a lease from Lord Derby, and was worth about £18 a year, made up as follows:—Fox field, 3 acres, £1 16s. 0d.; Fox meadow, 2 acres, £1 4s. 0d.; and 27 acres, £16 10s. 0d. Bilsborrow's stock and effects were sold, comprising, "2 storks (stirks) to Gudgston of Ribchester, attorney;" also "1 cow, 2 mares, and 1 horse;" and a stirk to Wm. Walmsley of Alston for £2. A note is added to the effect that "Mr. Bilsborrow was attainted 24 July, 1716."

<sup>1</sup> *Forfeited Estates Papers*, xiv., II.



## Early Christianity in Lancashire.

BY THE VERY REV. MGR. GRADWELL.

[*Monsignor Gradwell has from time to time published in local journals the results of his search into the early religious history of Lancashire ; he has discovered traces of the presence of Christianity in our county in some places which had previously attracted little attention, and in the following extracts these are briefly set forth*].

It has been already stated (p. 4) that the religion of Lancashire at the time of the Roman occupation was that of the rest of Britain, *i.e.*, Druidism. The Romans of course introduced into their newly conquered possession the religion of ancient Rome, so that Jupiter, Mars and Apollo, Minerva and Isis, had their altars and temples. Numerous altars to Fortune, to the names of the dead, and sometimes to local deities, have been found at Manchester, Ribchester, or Lancaster. An altar found at Lancaster to the most holy god, Jalonus, is supposed to indicate the worship paid to the deity presiding over the Lune ; one to Mars Cocidius, also found at Lancaster, and now preserved in the Assize Court in the castle ; and another from Ribchester to Apollo Maponus (see p. 20), are likewise supposed to be in honour of British deities. Stonyhurst still possesses an altar from Ribchester dedicated to the Mother Goddesses (see p. 22), and a statue of Jupiter found at Manchester, and a signet-ring bearing an intaglio of Mercury in a blood-stone, from Ribchester, are evidences of the homage paid to these false deities. During these centuries of Roman domination there are no evidences of the Christian religion having prevailed in Lancashire, and yet there can be no doubt that it was preached here as well as in other parts of Britain. Before the end of the second century the conversion of a British prince, Lucius, facilitated the spread of the Gospel in this country ; episcopal Sees were founded in the most important cities, as London and York, and naturally the latter would have jurisdiction in Lancashire. Eborius of York is mentioned as sitting at the Council of Arles in 314, as one of a deputation of British bishops. Constantine was born at York, but his conversion to Christianity would have little influence

on religion in Lancashire, for it did not take place for some years after he left Britain—viz., in the year 311; and the same may be said of the holy Empress Helen, his mother, who became a Christian at the same time. The campaigns of the Emperor Theodosius, half a century later, would do little more than free the country from the devastations of the Picts and Scots, whom he drove back for a time beyond the Forth and the Clyde. During the fourth century the ravages of these northern tribes were frequent throughout the north of England. Fire and sword spread havoc amongst the towns and country alike, and the temples and law courts of the Romans became heaps of charred ruins. At Ribchester, in 1813, Dr. Whitaker found a stratum of charcoal close by the ruins of a temple, immediately under the vegetable mould, evidently the remains of a timber roof which had been burned.<sup>1</sup>

Although so far not a solitary monument of Christian art has been discovered in Lancashire, it is possible that a Christian tomb or inscription may almost at any time reward the patient toil of the explorer. To this period succeeds a long interval of complete darkness. But though the civilization of Rome entirely disappeared, Christianity must have still prevailed to a certain extent; and when the clouds began to break, and we light on a passing mention of Lancashire, we find a Christian bishop speaking to a Christian people. However feeble the light, it seems never to have been completely extinguished. We read of Lancashire during the fifth and sixth centuries only incidentally, as the ground traversed on the way from Wales to the South of Scotland; but what was true of these districts must also be true to a certain extent of the intervening tract which was subject to the same temporal and spiritual rulers. The division of the country into counties was of after-growth, and even the distinction between England and Scotland, as it now exists, was not to arise for many centuries. St. Ninian, who was born on the south bank of the Solway Firth, about 360, and who flourished as Bishop of Witherne in the fifth century, was as much at home on the north as on the south side of the border. In his youth there were both churches and schools, frequented by Christians, in what is now the county of Cumberland, and we cannot greatly err in assuming that it would be much the same on the banks of the Mersey or

<sup>1</sup> Watkin's *Roman Lancashire*, 147.

Ribble. However, be that as it may, the rule of the Romans was succeeded by a complete break-up of any central authority. Power fell naturally into the hands of local chiefs, and was exercised by them in their immediate neighbourhoods, until the courage or good fortune of an individual enabled him to reduce the other chiefs to subjection. The rest of our island, from Land's End to the Clyde, remained British or Celtic long after the eastern coasts and the midland districts had yielded to the Saxons, and, as a consequence of this, Christianity continued to be the religion of the land. Indeed, the Saxons of Northumbria had themselves become Christians before they established their sway over Lancashire.

St. Kentigern in his journey from Scotland through Lancashire to Wales, about the year 340, must naturally have traversed the shores of Morecambe Bay, passing through Grange-over-Sands on his way to Lancaster. Then the remains of the old Roman road would conduct him by Galgate and Claughton-on-Brock, to Walton-le-Dale and through Wigan, to the ford over the Mersey. Whether his preaching led to the establishment of priests on the banks of the Ribble, of which more later on, or he found them already flourishing there, and merely confirmed them by his teaching, Joceline (St. Kentigern's biographer) does not say; but large tracts of land in Lancashire had been already given by religious princes to the support of the church.<sup>1</sup> A very interesting account of St. Kentigern will be found in Joceline's *Biography*.<sup>2</sup>

Following St. Kentigern, St. Edwin and St. Paulinus in the sixth century, journeyed through Lancashire, stirring up and preserving the religious faith of the people.

The evidences of the existence of Early Christianity in Lancashire are to be seen in the *Ecclesiæ* or *Eccleses* scattered over the country, and especially in close proximity to the Roman camps and roads. For example, Eccleshill, near Blackburn, we may safely infer, received the name, not from the Normans, nor the Angles, but from the Britons who retained the name which had been given in Roman times in consequence of the existence of a Christian Churh, an *Ecclesia*, on or at no great distance from the Roman road.

<sup>1</sup> Eddi's *Life of St. Wilfrid*, chap. xvii.

<sup>2</sup> Forbes's *Lives of S. Ninian and S. Kentigern*.

Again we find tradition (as embodied in the "*De Statu Blagborneshire*") connecting the origin of Whalley Church with the time when St. Augustine preached the faith to Ethelbert, King of Kent, in 597. And, although it has not been proved that St. Augustine ever visited Lancashire, the fact is clear that Christianity was prevalent in the neighbourhood of Whalley in the sixth century.

In the same way, may we not connect the very ancient Christianity found by King Ægfrith in 672, on the banks of the Ribble, in the neighbourhood of Preston, with the Roman station at Walton-le-Dale, and the Roman road running northwards to Lancaster? Eddi, the contemporary and friend of St. Wilfrid, tells us of British princes who gave to the Church various lands on the banks of the Ribble and in Amounderness. And may we not reasonably suppose that the old Christianity of Roman times lingered on in the neighbourhood of Ribchester and Walton-le-Dale, diligently fostered by the native clergy, and faithfully preserved by the native people?

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#### APPENDIX TO CHAPTER I. (P. 39).

In the month of April, 1890, as a workman was digging in the garden of the Rector of Ribchester, the Rev. F. J. Dickson, that gentleman standing by saw something glitter in the upturned soil. Picking it up, he found it to be a gold coin; and on examination it proved to be a piece of the Roman Emperor Gratian in excellent preservation. His gold coins are by no means uncommon; but the one in question bears on the reverse a legend which may possibly be unique: *PRINCIPIVM IVENTVTIS*. *PRINCIPI IVENTVTIS* is not unusual on Roman Emperor's coins, but the other appears to be a blunder. The piece was struck at Trèves. Gratian was assassinated in the year 383.

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## ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

- Page 48, line 19, for "wlel" read "well."  
 " 94, ,, 32, for "1856" read "1756."  
 " 95, ,, 31, for "hexagonal" read "octagonal."  
 " 187, ,, 28, for "1857" read "1867."  
 " 221, ,, 3, for "Duncan" read "Dunstane."

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